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January 25th, 2012 ■ Issue No. 19 ■ Volume 102

THE gateway

THE OFFICIAL STUDENT NEWSPAPER AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

Student embezzled \$27,000 from BSA

April Hudson

STAFF REPORTER • @APRIL_HUDSON

A student embezzled more than \$27,000 from a faculty association at the University of Alberta, according to a statement released Monday to Faculty of Business students.

In their statement, the Business Students' Association (BSA) revealed that \$27,745 was stolen from a BSA bank account over the course of the summer, a fact which the association became aware of in August 2011.

When asked, the BSA said they could not comment on the investigation or the identity of the student, but BSA President Kimberley Menard said that the association is working with the Students' Union to ensure that this does not happen to any other clubs in the future.

"Our internal controls are pretty tight already," Menard said. "We're just making sure that if an error is made in the future, we're able to catch it sooner."

The BSA statement said the student in question acted alone, although all transactions are supposed to require two authorized signatures. Menard was unable to elaborate on how the student was able to act on their own, although their statement indicated it was due to a bank error.

"Our internal controls are pretty tight already... we're just making sure that if an error is made in the future, we're able to catch it sooner."

KIMBERLEY MENARD
PRESIDENT, BUSINESS STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Students' Union Vice-President (Academic) Emerson Csorba confirmed that the SU and the BSA have been working together with the Office of the Dean of Students to investigate the issue.

"We've been doing a lot of investigating over the last few months, just in terms of looking at the financial procedures of the BSA," Csorba said.

"The BSA has been handling this well over the last few months, and we've been working with the Dean of Students to make sure something like this doesn't happen again, and at the same time that something like this can't happen to other faculty organizations."

PLEASE SEE **BSA** • PAGE 3



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION: DAN MCKECHNIE AND ROSS VINCENT

TOP OPINION

Business students need to fight bad image



Ryan Bromsgrove
OPINION EDITOR

The jokes are too easy. A business student embezzled almost \$28,000 from the Business Students' Association during their time there. Of course it was a business student, people will say — this is what business students do, after all. They need to get some early practice in during their degrees in order to properly prepare themselves for lives of lucrative white-collar

crime. The big bad corporations in the real world will be clambering over one another to slap this student on their payroll before they even graduate.

But at times like these, when one person takes it upon themselves to give in to dishonesty, it's worth keeping things in perspective. One person, so far as we know, is guilty of the embezzlement. The entire executive will be viewed with a certain amount of suspicion, and they can be rightly criticized for waiting until January to reveal an incident that happened over the summer. And recalling the leaking of personal information of members two weeks ago points to a pattern of incompetency, sure. But we shouldn't give in to the temptation of

pretending that this is typical business student behaviour.

Unfortunately, a lot of people will. And unfair as it may seem, it's going to be up to the honest business students to fight this perception. Nice as the idea might sound, the incident cannot be ignored and dismissed as merely a regrettable case of one bad apple making them all look bad, even though that's exactly what it is. Instead, students should emphatically denounce anyone involved, and take back their reputation — a reputation already unfairly ridden with negative connotations and met with scorn from others on campus.

PLEASE SEE **EMBEZZLEMENT** • PAGE 17

BUDGET CUTS

Budget cuts forces Arts to eliminate 10 faculty positions

Alex Migdal

NEWS EDITOR • @ALEXEM

Despite cutting three vacant faculty positions for a savings of \$500,000, the Faculty of Arts is still planning to eliminate a total of 15 support staff positions.

A \$1.5 million deficit caused by a faculty-wide two per cent budget cut last April has left the faculty scrambling to find savings, leading

to an initiative termed the Administrative Process Review Project (AdPREP).

Through AdPREP, the faculty has found another \$1 million in savings by eliminating seven tenured faculty positions from professors who have accepted retirement packages, which will take effect July 1. Those savings will go towards the next faculty-wide two per cent budget cut that will eliminate another \$1.5 million from the arts budget on April 1.

In addition, eight support staff have voluntarily left their jobs, leaving another seven support staff positions to cut before the end of February.

Savings for next year's budget cut will not be found by eliminating more non-academic and support staff, Dean of Arts Lesley Cormack said.

"My hope is that next year's cut, we can take with a combination of better management of

our endowments, being able to use them a little more creatively, fundraising, and the closing of those (faculty) positions," Cormack said.

In addition, the faculty will be offering a voluntary severance plan for both non-academic and academic staff, as well as a declaration of interest for those interested in reducing their full-time position to part-time.

PLEASE SEE **ADPREP** • PAGE 5

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colophon

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SHOOTING FOR GOLD Caroline Muir, a U of A student and former Panda, is head-to-head to the 2012 Olympic games in London. MATT HIRJI

campus
crimebeat

COMPILED BY **Alex Migdal**

ONE WAY TICKET TO TROUBLE

On Jan. 17, University of Alberta Protective Services (UAPS) observed a vehicle travelling the wrong way on a one way street. The vehicle was stopped for the offence and a ticket was issued.

SNEAKY CREEPER

On Jan. 18, UAPS received a complaint from a HUB resident of a male trying to open the door to her suite. UAPS attended the area, but the male was gone on arrival.

DISTURBIA TIMES TWO

UAPS and Edmonton Police Service (EPS) were called to attend HUB to investigate a disturbance on the evening on Jan. 19. The parties were identified and a male was banned from U of A property. The male returned a short time later and was arrested for trespassing. The incident is still under investigation.

PEACE OUT, BRO

UAPS received a report of two intoxicated males at HUB on the evening of Jan. 19. UAPS

attended but both males were gone on arrival.

SLEEP DEPRIVED

On the early morning of Jan. 20, UAPS observed an unaffiliated male sleeping inside a U of A building. The male has been previously dealt with by UAPS. UAPS issued the male a written notice of trespassing and directed the male off campus.

EDGE OF GLORY

UAPS received a report of a male walking along the top edge of Stadium car park on Jan. 21. UAPS and EPS attended the area. The area was extensively searched, but the male was not found.

LISTER DRUNK

On the early morning of Jan. 22, University of Alberta Protective Services observed an intoxicated male vomiting outside the main doors of Lister Centre. UAPS identified the male as a U of A student, and discovered that he did not reside on campus. UAPS issued the male a ticket for public intoxication and he was escorted home.

streeters

COMPILED AND PHOTOGRAPHED BY **April Hudson + Alex Migdal**



Patrice Yorke ARTS IV

"Tuition. That's my biggest concern right now."



Thomas Haennel ARTS IV

"Porn."



Gwen Rudosky ARTS I

"I would pay for my tuition and books. I think I'd also go to Mexico."



Danielle Bouchard ARTS II

"Tuition and an apartment."

As you may have heard, a student embezzled \$27,000 from the Business Students' Association.

WE ASKED...

If you embezzled \$27,000, what would you spend it on?



The next iteration of With Important People (WIP) will be going live on Thursday. This week we interview local rapper and record label executive The Joe.

Find all our podcasts online at thegatewayonline.ca

WE'RE YOUR GATEWAY TO THE MUSIC INDUSTRY.

BSA points to bank error in embezzlement case

Student charged under the Code of Student Behaviour and is being investigated by EPS

BSA • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

According to Csorba, the SU learned about the embezzlement in early December.

"I wouldn't say that the BSA kept this to themselves," Csorba said. "When something like this happens, it can be a bit startling just because of the magnitude. But we've had a pretty good relationship in terms of working with them — I'd say that (our) relationship is characterized by trust."

Csorba added that the issue has remained confidential until recently because the student had launched an appeal regarding a Code of Student Behaviour charge.

Although she couldn't comment on the specifics of the case, Deborah Eerkes, the university's discipline officer, clarified that in cases of theft or embezzlement, an appeal could be launched once it's determined that the student violated the Code of Student Behaviour. The appeal board would read over the case and come to a final and binding decision.

"There would be all kinds of things to take into account, like how much was stolen, whether the student was already involved in paying it back," Eerkes said.

"The range of sanctions (begins with) restitution, but also (includes) things like a conduct probation, or various levels of suspension. Expulsion would be the worst that could happen."

Elaine Geddes, associate dean

for the School of Business' undergraduate program, stressed that the individuals involved in the investigation are obligated not to provide any information about the student in question.

“The bank changed provisions on the BSA student account, which was done without the knowledge of the rest of the students. We believe the bank is at fault. Whether or not we’re able to do anything about that is an open question at this stage.”

ELAINE GEDDES
ASSOCIATE DEAN, ALBERTA SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

"People are criticizing the BSA for not identifying this person," Geddes said, adding that under the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, the Code of Student Behaviour, and other university regulations, the BSA is not permitted to do so.

In their official statement, the BSA wrote that the embezzlement was made possible because of a bank error in setting up ATM privileges when the signing authorities were changed for the 2011/2012 year.

"The bank changed provisions

on the BSA student account, which was done without the knowledge of the rest of the students," Geddes explained. "We believe the bank is at fault. Whether or not we're able to do anything about that is an open question at this stage."

Geddes added that the BSA has rules in place that should have prevented this from happening.

"What they need to do (now) is provide some way of catching mistakes of this kind before they turn into what this turned into," Geddes said. "But it should never have happened in the first place, considering the safeguards they already had."

More than half the stolen money was recovered, but Geddes could not provide a precise amount.

"I have been involved in this from day one, and these students (in the BSA) have done their best to try to properly safeguard the financial resources of students in the School of Business," Geddes said.

"It's unfair what they're being required to go through now, because they have been victims of a crime, and they're being re-victimized all over again."

UAPS Director Bill Mowbray confirmed that the student implicated in the embezzlement was charged under the Code of Student Behaviour, and added that the Edmonton Police Service still has a file open for this case.

The EPS officer in charge of reviewing the case was not available for comment as of press time.

GFC considers removing deferral fee

Concerns raised that \$48 exam deferral fee may violate the Human Rights Act

April Hudson

STAFF REPORTER • @APRIL_HUDSON

By the end of this semester, University of Alberta students may no longer be required to pay \$48 to defer a final, due to a push by the General Faculties Council (GFC) to eliminate deferred exam fees.

The university currently charges students \$48.70 per deferred exam, but during the GFC's Academic Standards Committee (ASC) meeting last week, questions were raised as to whether this could be a violation of the Human Rights Act, particularly in cases where students have legitimate reasons for not being able to write a final.

"It appeared to me to be fundamentally wrong to charge fees to a student who, for example, had been in a car accident and was in the hospital," said Elaine Geddes, associate dean for the Alberta School of Business' undergraduate program, who strongly supports the move to eliminate the fee.

"If (a student) had a chronic illness (they) wouldn't be charged fees, but if (they) had a sudden acute illness (they) would be charged fees. And that didn't seem to me to be fair."

Geddes said when the registrar grants a deferred exam, it's theoretically because the student has a legitimate reason for being unable to write the final. But Geddes noted there has been discussion over whether or not the fees act as a general deterrent.

"My argument to that is if you have a student who really doesn't care about lying to get a deferred exam, \$48 is not going to stop them," Geddes said. "And if you have a student

who's genuinely ill, or injured, or suffering from a family affliction of some type, then \$48 seems almost cruel."

Administration from the Faculty of Engineering agreed with Geddes' argument, and last semester both faculties waived the fee for all students who wrote deferred exams.

However, Geddes said too many faculties are still charging students for deferred exams for the issue to be dropped.

“There’s mental health issues with a lot of students that are really concerning, and the fact that a student could pay over \$200 in deferred exam fees when extraordinary circumstance happens is just unacceptable.”

EMERSON CSORBA
STUDENTS' UNION VICE-PRESIDENT (ACADEMIC)

Emerson Csorba, the Students' Union vice-president (academic), said the SU is definitely in favour of the U of A eliminating the deferred exam fees.

"There's mental health issues with a lot of students that are really concerning, and the fact that a student could pay over \$200 in deferred exam fees when extraordinary circumstance happens is just unacceptable," Csorba said. "For a lot of students, that \$200 is enough to break a budget for a month."

Csorba said the \$70,000 that the university collects in deferred exam fees every year is currently a part of its operating budget.

"Even though the fees are assessed individually by every faculty, it doesn't necessarily go back to the

faculty," Csorba said. "So the faculties that are taking the money from students aren't even necessarily seeing that money used."

Registrar Gerry Kendal said that, although the numbers vary from year to year, the university sees somewhere between 1,000 and 1,200 deferred exams per year. Kendal added that nothing has been decided yet as far as the fee goes.

"Many things get talked about that may never come to fruition, so emphatically there has been

absolutely no decision to eliminate the deferred exam fee," Kendal explained. "Discussion and decision are two quite different things."

Although a decision on the matter has yet to be reached, Geddes said that there has been no actual opposition to the motion to remove deferred exam fees.

"I think students generally should be encouraged to write their exams at the time that they're scheduled," Geddes said. "But I don't think \$48 is making any difference to anybody. It seems like a petty thing to do to a student who's really sick, and nothing to a student who doesn't care."

For the fee to be removed, it will have to be approved by GFC. The issue is currently only in a discussion phase.

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U of A sustainability summit set to promote social justice

Jonathan Faerber
NEWS WRITER

Sustainability and social justice aren't always mentioned in the same sentence, but an upcoming summit at the University of Alberta is hoping to change that. "Just sustainability" is the buzzword at this Saturday's Student Sustainability Summit, a daylong event that will include various workshops, panels, a resource fair and presentations by members of the Parkland Institute, Pembina Institute and Edmonton's NextGen.

"If you really care about your quality of life 10, 30, 50 years down the line, you have to really care about social justice and the world as a bigger picture. Every little thing helps."

ZOE WAGNER
STUDENT UMBRELLA FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE CO-CHAIR

The summit will kick-start with sustainability icon Julian Agyeman, who will deliver a keynote address on Friday. Agyeman is a well-known author who has played a significant role in articulating the intersection between sustainability and social justice. Agyeman's recognizable name should attract a diverse crowd of both engaged students and

newcomers wanting to learn more about sustainability, according to Lisa Dockman, the outreach and engagement program lead at the U of A's Office of Sustainability and summit planning committee member. "One of the goals for the planning committee was to attract a diversity of people," Dockman said. "It's not just sciences or social well being. It's also engineering, English students — it's absolutely everybody." The summit's focus on accessibility is reflected in sessions open to those who haven't registered for the summit, including a journalist's take on sustainability and communications, and presentations on community development and social change. In one event, titled "Sustainability Scholars," a panel of grad students will talk about their research on sustainability from the perspectives of their different faculties. Although the biannual summit is in its second year, Dockman said this year has seen increased collaboration between the three organizations co-hosting the event — the U of A's Office of Sustainability, Sustain SU, and the Student Umbrella for Social Justice. "I think this summit has a different twist and has a much more tangible benefit to it," Dockman said. "A student who would attend this summit would likely be there because they feel they could know more or have an interest and are excited to explore that interest in sustainability."

"Maybe it's just as a passion, maybe it's a life career path or maybe it's meeting other people who have similar values and ideas." Zoe Wagner, the Student Umbrella for Social Justice co-chair, is pleased with the way the partnership has helped the U of A re-imagine sustainability on campus. Wagner explained that the Office of Sustainability decided to increase their focus last summer from environmental and economic sustainability to social sustainability, as they felt that students lacked awareness of the latter initiative. "We were really excited, because for the Office of Sustainability and Sustain SU to really focus on something that we're interested in, that's huge," Wagner said. Wagner added that the event is a pivotal opportunity for student engagement. "If you really care about your quality of life 10, 30, 50 years down the line, you have to really care about social justice and the world as a bigger picture. Every little thing helps," Wagner said. Dockman added that the summit has long-term value for student engagement. "This is part of that train the trainers thing. If you give people the knowledge, skills and abilities to be able to be more sustainable and advocate that sustainability within their own lives, they then carry those skills into all the work that they do," Dockman said. "The institution is the people, and when they leave, they're still a continuation of that."

SPEAKER PREVIEW

Acclaimed professor to shed light on global sustainability practices

Ravanne Lawday
NEWS STAFF • @RAVIAZHARKO

During his tenure as a professor, editor, and writer, Julian Agyeman drew an unlikely link between social inequities and sustainability practices, a stepping stone for his upcoming talk on global sustainability practices at the University of Alberta this week. Agyeman, who is both chairman and professor of urban and environmental policy and planning at Tufts University in the U.S., will be one of two speakers participating in the U of A's Sustainability Speaker Series. Agyeman is also the co-founder and editor of "Local Environment: The International Journal of Justice and Sustainability" and has published more than 150 peer-reviewed articles and journal entries. Agyeman argues that we must consider the social implications of sustainability, rather than just the environmental aspect. This includes instances of hate crimes, mental issues and gender issues, which he says indicate the overall health of a campus. This is particularly applicable to Alberta, which is heavily focused on environmental sustainability, according to Agyeman. "We're obsessed with looking for answers to sustainability questions, but I think the problem lies in the questions we're asking," Agyeman said. "I'm going to talk about what kind of sustainability questions students

should be asking campus-wide and globally." Agyeman wants to leave his audience with an open mind and a more curious outlook on what they can do to advance global sustainability. "We will never move towards a more just way of sustainability if we keep doing things exactly the way we've been doing them," Agyeman said. **"I'm always telling the students I teach to stop thinking inside the box and to stop doing things the way we've always done them."** JULIAN AGYEMAN
SPEAKER AT SUSTAINABILITY SPEAKER SERIES "I hope to get people to ask some really tough questions, and then we will have a better chance of providing solutions to those questions and getting new answers. I also want people to think not about what is probable, but what is possible." Agyeman's link between social injustice and environmental problems is one of the main inspirations behind the U of A's transition from the Environmental Coordination Office of Students (ECOS) to Sustain SU, claims the program's director Ian Moore, who attended a lecture delivered by Agyeman in 2010. Much of ECOS' programming was heavily focused on environmental

sustainability, said Moore, adding that Agyeman's lecture convinced them to revamp their mandate. "When Julian spoke, it gave words to something that I felt already," Moore said. "He made everything click together and make sense. The lecture was really motivational for our organization and for our re-development." The main change Agyeman inspired Moore to implement in Sustain SU took place in the campus garden. The space, which used to focus mainly on organic gardening and composting, has become a community space used by many groups, including the Campus Food Bank. "After Julian's lecture, we've moved away from statistics," Moore said. "We still find them important, but the most important thing is our social component and encouraging people on campus to act on the values of sustainability." The social approach that Sustain SU has taken is ultimately the sort of change Agyeman wants his audience to consider. "I'm always telling the students I teach to stop thinking inside the box and to stop doing things the way we've always done them. I tell them to always think about what is possible," Agyeman said. "That will, in turn, give us great ideas and great visions." Agyeman's lecture will be held on Jan. 27 at 5 p.m. in the Telus Centre. Tickets for the event are free and can be obtained at InfoLink booths on campus.

President, staff disagree over impact of funding cuts

ADPREP • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Although she acknowledged the situation was less than ideal, Cormack said that eliminating faculty positions was ultimately the best scenario.

"The bad news about closing positions as people retire is that it's not done strategically. That's definitely the downside," Cormack said. "It's actually my hope that we will be able to mitigate a little bit, because if we have a number of people retiring, we don't need to close all of those positions, which I think is a possibility."

However, English professor Carolyn Sale said this is the exactly the wrong moment to be eliminating faculty positions from the arts.

"I feel pretty strongly that we should not be closing faculty lines and that this is not the solution," Sale said. "Of course, they've moved towards it precisely because it sounds better to the public. These professors were already retiring, so we're not affecting individuals directly. It's going to go over a lot better than what we were hearing in the fall."

Similarly, a support staff member in the arts faculty who asked to remain anonymous said the alternative solutions are welcome news, but have ultimately been implemented too late in the process.

"It's unfortunate that it comes too late for some of our admin staff who have declined to wait for the axe to fall and found employment elsewhere ... Had this route been taken at the outset, a lot of stress and heartache could have been avoided."

But Cormack said there's no way to have an efficient process when you're dealing with positions that have developed over time.



TOUGH TIMES Dean of Arts Lesley Cormack addressed questions about the AdPreP process at a public forum last week. DAN MCKECHNIE

"It's a very complicated thing to try and get at what those positions are and what's needed," Cormack said.

"I think that one could have imagined a much longer process ... but that would have been much less efficient and probably would have taken several years."

Cormack also raised the issue of whether the budget cuts are diminishing the quality of education for students in the arts faculty.

"Of course, anytime you take resources and people out of the system, of course it has consequences for those things. I think it would be foolish to say it does not," Cormack told an audience at a forum last week.

Cormack's stance differed from President Indira Samarasekera's, who was quoted in the *Edmonton*

Journal last week as saying the budget cuts were "modest" and would not have an impact on students.

"I don't buy the argument that the two-per-cent cut is going to change their experience," Samarasekera told the *Journal's* editorial board. "We have not laid off profs, the number has increased over the last five or six years and now it's constant and may go down slightly."

Sale said Samarasekera lost a key opportunity to shed light on the consequences of budget deficits at the U of A.

"It makes us wonder what has she been saying on our behalf? If she loses such an opportunity with the *Edmonton Journal*, what has been going on behind closed doors?" Sale asked.

Students' Union President Rory Tighe also disagreed with

Samarasekera's claim, noting that students have a vested interest in the quality of their education.

"I think the budget cuts are affecting students. When support staff are laid off, that has a direct impact on students. When faculty are laid off, that has a direct impact on students. When there's less programs, that has an effect on students," Tighe said.

Cormack later told *The Gateway* she felt President Samarasekera was in situation where she was concerned about the institution's reputation.

"I don't think (Samarasekera) was right that this is not going to affect quality, but I would also say we have a very high-quality institution. We need to be careful to not overstate the problems that we have in a way that could cause damage as well," Cormack said.

Samarasekera responded to her comments in the *Journal* a few days later in a written statement by acknowledging the budget cuts have been "painful" for all faculties, while noting the administration is striving to minimize their impact.

"My point was that prior to the current fiscal squeeze, we were able to make major investments in the university that have significantly improved the teaching and learning environment — indeed the quality of the educational experience — at the U of A," Samarasekera wrote.

"Yes, there are impacts if we must offer fewer sections of some courses or have a few more students in some classes. But there is no other post-secondary institution in Alberta and few in Canada that offer the rigorous, research-intensive, incredible education that our students are getting."

Tighe also noted the importance of looking beyond the arts faculty in a time of budget crisis, as other faculties are sharing similar struggles. In the past 19 months, the Faculty of Science has eliminated 55 out of 600 faculty and administrative positions, including layoffs of non-academic staff.

"I think what's happening in the Faculty of Arts is sad," Tighe said. "I think, however, there are similar stories happening in a lot of other faculties. I think it's important to tell the whole story, when we are talking about this, and not focus on any particular issue."

Recommendations and implementation of the AdPreP's final administrative structure are expected to continue until March 31.

The full interview with Dean of Arts Lesley Cormack can be found at thegatewayonline.ca/news

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DAN MCKECHNIE

SUB abuzz with Spirit Week

Kate Black

NEWS WRITER • @BLAHLAHLBLACK

Although some New Year's resolutions are doomed to fail, University of Alberta students were able to live up to their commitment to get more involved on campus thanks to the recently rebranded Spirit Week.

The week-long event previously known as Involvement Week was quieter than usual due to the wintry conditions, but SUB was still abuzz from Monday to Thursday last week with students exploring displays from over 30 student clubs and volunteer groups.

InfoLink director and Spirit Week co-ordinator Hallie Brodie explained that many students start looking to supplement their academic life in the second term after the hype of the first term dies down.

"I think what motivates (students to get involved) is the fact that, in their first term, they have a chance to figure out what their courses are like," Brodie said. "In the second term, they are more likely to have their studies under wraps, and build on that and gain more opportunities."

In addition to enriching the university experience, Brodie added that the opportunities presented at Spirit Week provide preparation for life beyond post-secondary, a component that is not always found in the classroom.

"(Spirit Week) is important because it allows (students) to become a part of their community, and it also provides them with that real world experience," Brodie said. "When they're in class, they don't get to interact with employers."

According to Brodie, co-op opportunities are limited for students, so joining clubs provides the opportunity to "taste test" different career options.

From networking with possible employers to developing real-life skills, Brodie explained that the many student groups at the U of A all have something to offer the diverse student population.

Students' Union Vice-President (Student Life) Colten Yamagishi said that becoming involved with on-campus groups makes for a more enjoyable university experience.

"It helps develop leadership qualities and compliments the skills that

you learn in university. Plus, it's a good thing to make new friends and meet new people," Yamagishi said.

Yamagishi noted that while the weather kept some students at home, the Spirit Week events, which included a free concert at SUBstage on Monday and additional displays set up for residents in Lister Centre, brought many students out from the cold.

"The hardest thing we had this year was temperature. When it's so cold out, a lot of people would rather just go straight to their classes then go home right after," Yamagishi said. "We still had pretty good traffic, though. Most of the tables had a lot of people coming by and the events were really well attended, too."

First-year science student Allen Mar came into SUB to kill time before catching the bus, but left with the realization that becoming involved was easier than he initially thought.

"I always thought that I would never have enough time to get involved, but now I can tell that the clubs and stuff are really flexible as far as time commitment goes," Mar said.

U of A roundtable to address rising cost of textbooks in universities

Bryan Saunders

NEWS WRITER • @BRDARLING

A Canadian Roundtable on Academic Materials (CRAM) conference at the U of A in February will bring together students' unions, professors, and bookstores from all over Canada in order to discuss the rising cost of textbooks.

"Based on a recent Students' Union survey that we did, students were almost unanimous in believing that the cost of academic materials is too high," said Emerson Csorba, the Students' Union vice-president (academic). "This conference is going to help us work together to help reduce the cost of academic materials."

As Csorba pointed out, there are lots of ways in which the cost of academic materials might be reduced.

"I'm definitely a fan of professors using online journals that are free for students. If a professor is using free journal articles as their required readings, then that is much better than requiring students to pay hundreds of dollars for a textbook," Csorba said.

Csorba said another idea that

often comes up is using more digital textbooks or eBooks. However, he pointed out that the cost of eBooks is still very close to the cost of paper textbooks.

Acting Chief Librarian Mary-Jo Romaniuk will also be participating in CRAM, and said she agrees with Csorba that eBooks are still not living up to their full potential.

"Students were almost unanimous in believing that the cost of academic materials is too high."

EMERSON CSORBA
STUDENTS' UNION VICE-PRESIDENT (ACADEMIC)

"For a long time, we've been buying eBooks and licensing eBooks and we understand some of the issues with eBook licensing and platforms. Right now, I think there are multiple issues and multiple problems. With digital textbooks for example, the licensing models that I've seen are largely unaffordable," Romaniuk said.

"I think that publishers recognize they need to change but they're not sure how to sustain their revenue at

the same time," she added.

Whatever agreement students, bookstores, and publishers come to, Csorba believes that information should be disseminated as freely as possible.

"Personally, I feel that no matter what country you happen to live in, you should have access to as much information as possible. With us living in a very mobile, global world, I feel very strongly about people having constant access to new types of information so that they can always be learning."

Csorba also noted the cost of academic materials ties in with discussions of pirating and copyrighting issues recently highlighted in the news.

"I think for students who do pirate materials, the rising cost of academic materials is certainly a reason. I think if we saw a decrease in the cost of materials and if more materials were open access, like the online university at MIT, you would see less pirating."

There is no cost to participate in the conference, but there is a limit on the number of participants. To sign up, contact Csorba at emerson.csorba@su.ualberta.ca

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The School of Energy & the Environment (SEE) invites you to attend the next presentation in our "SEE the research at work" seminar series 2011-12:



A Whirlwind Tour of Oil Sands Research

Chris Powter Executive Director, Oil Sands Research and Information Network

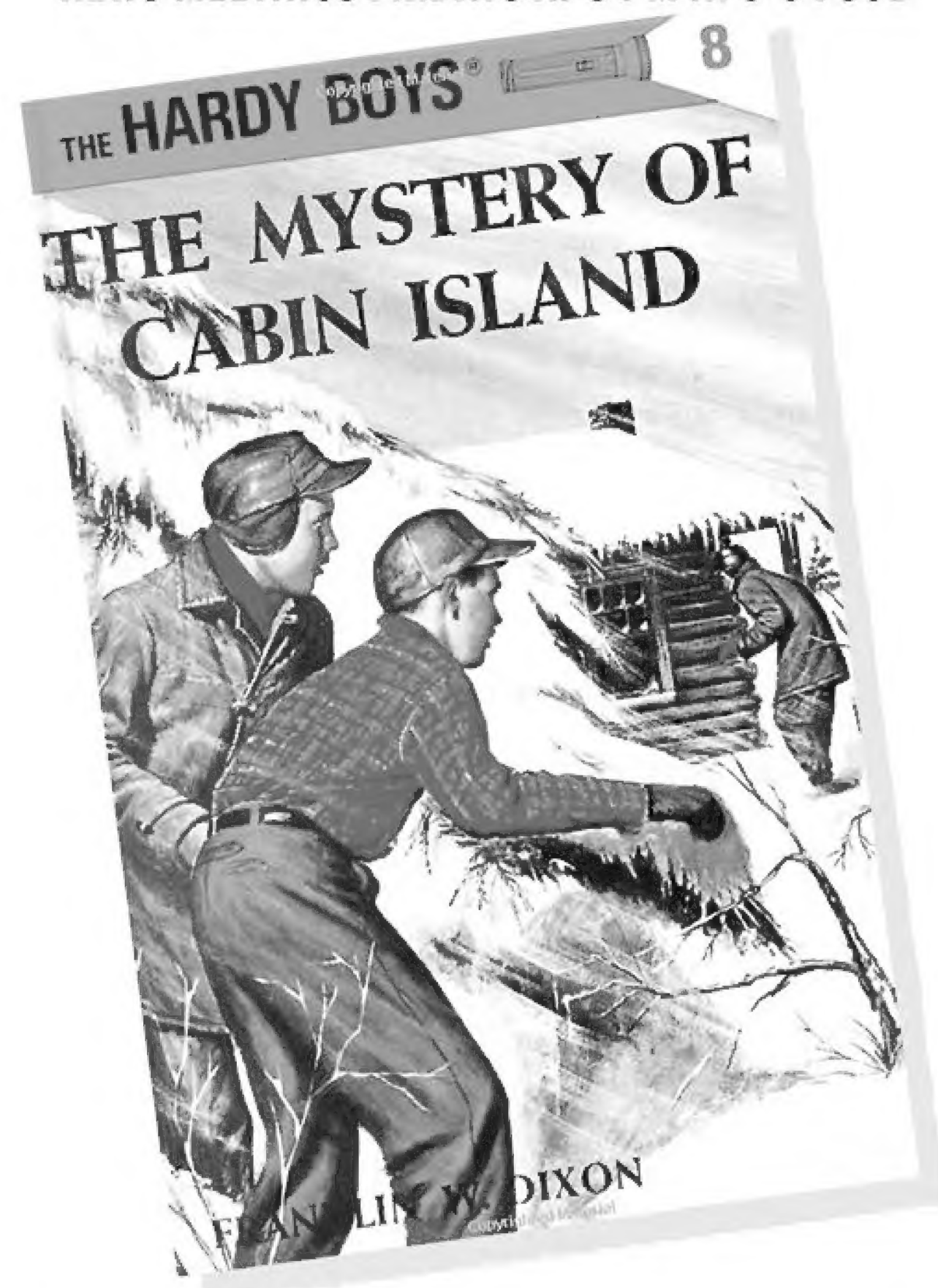
A massive amount of time, effort and funding is being directed at solving the environmental management issues related to oil sands extraction and processing. Work in this field has been going on since the early 1970s, and the scope of work and the players involved continue to grow each year. This presentation aims to stimulate your interest in oil sands research by providing you with a glimpse of the range of work in a variety of disciplines being done on campus and elsewhere. Notwithstanding all of the work done to date and ongoing, there remains much to be done and therefore there are significant opportunities for University researchers. One of the key pieces missing in all of this work, and an area where the University could make a significant contribution, is the integration and synthesis of research efforts.

All are welcome. RSVP not required.

Date: Wednesday, February 2, 2012 | **Time:** 12:00 pm to 1:30 pm
More information and optional RSVP available at www.see.ualberta.ca
Location: Stollery Executive Development Centre, Room 5-40, Alberta School of Business, U of A
Questions? School of Energy and the Environment (SEE): uasee@ualberta.ca

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NEWS MEETINGS FRIDAYS AT 3 PM IN 3-04 SUB



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Student dropout rates a concern in the Maritimes

University of New Brunswick pledging to enhance student experience and boost retention rates through a number of initiatives

Colin McPhail
THE BRUNSWICKAN

FREDERICTON (CUP) — The Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission (MPHEC) reported in a recent survey that post-secondary institutions in the Maritimes lose about 33 per cent of students at the end their first year. Of that, the humanities, arts and social sciences faculties endure the lowest retention rate, with only 73 per cent of students returning for a second year.

It's a trend Scott Duguay is all too familiar with.

The special assistant to the vice-president (academic) at the University of New Brunswick has watched enrollment rates etch a consistent path up and down graphs for the past decade — UNB rounding out at just over 12,000 for the Fredericton and Saint John campuses.

The rates haven't fallen, but, more importantly for Duguay, they haven't gone up.

This is why the university administration has pledged to enhance the student experience and boost retention through a number of initiatives falling under the Student Experience Measurement Plan.

Duguay, who is spearheading the project, has scoured the MPHEC database in search of trends and a possible answer to increasing student persistence. However, the figures only tell part of the story. It's the "why's" that get him.

"If you're looking at retention, you could say, 'How many students do I have in a program?' and then, 'How many students do I have in

the program next year?'" he said. "But they could be completely different students."

Duguay said with universities exchanging transfer students, the numbers can be misleading. He wants to know — what prompted the transfer? What made them dropout? What can be done differently?

UNB's own research demonstrates the most popular factors in students' decision to leave fall outside the academic realm. Financial planning and time management top the list of many, Duguay said. However, the need for a more in-depth and accurate depiction remains.

"If we can start narrowing it down to the 'whys' and start focusing on the groups with similar issues, then that's when we can start targeting the programs to help students directly," Duguay said.

His team has been mining data from the past decade, following student numbers to see what trends exist. He said it's important to see where transfer students end up to have a better grasp on what the university's programming might be lacking.

Duguay hopes to start answering questions within a year.

As for student persistence, the university enlisted the services of a firm specializing in survey engineering and questionnaire development and assessment to get real-time feedback through new media. Duguay said they would be getting the information from "the experts" themselves.

"The experts, if you will, on the



RETENTION CRUSADER Scott Duguay is spearheading the Student Experience Measurement Plan at UNB. ANDREW MEADE/THE BRUNSWICKAN

UNB experience are students, faculty and staff — those who are actually getting the experience," Duguay said. "So, this program we're launching is getting the feedback back to us."

Among the various group monitoring situation includes the vice-president groups on student experience, led by Vice-President (Academic) Dr. Tony Secco, a collection of administrators analyzing student satisfaction.

"The idea is to bring all the good work that is happening on campus in pockets, if you will, into a

strategic focus plan moving forward and communicate back to the community what our retention priorities and student persistence and that sort of thing," Duguay said.

The need for stable or increasing retention rates is pertinent to the financial administrators as well.

The university uses a predictive number to account for the level of enrollment when outlining the annual operating budget. Tuition fees account for roughly 30 per cent of the budget, and a significant drop could lead to a shortfall.

Jordan Thompson, president of

the UNB students' union, said addressing the needs of first-year students from the start is paramount in producing stronger rates.

"It's very important to have sessions during orientation week to help transition students to university life," he said.

The students' union works with the university in planning academic orientation, and, despite not having a specific program dedicated to student retention, the union has several members sitting on various groups dedicated to improving the student experience.

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MONDAY JANUARY 30, Keynote Address

Tariq Ali

Capitalism and Democracy:

Economic Crisis and Democratic Deficit

Monday January 30,
12:00 PM – 1:00 PM
@ Myer Horowitz Theatre

Since 2008 the world has been engulfed in a growing economic crisis. One percent of the world's population has benefited from an exploitative relationship with the remaining "99 percent". Now, even in Greece, where "democracy" was born, unelected bankers and technocrats rule.

Given the symbiosis between politics and big money, what is to be done? How do citizens embody a just democratic process, and what does it mean to "Live Democracy" on a daily basis?

Tariq Ali is a novelist, journalist, filmmaker, public intellectual and activist based out of London. He has written more than two dozen books on world history and politics, and seven novels that have been translated into over a dozen languages, as well as scripts for the stage and screen. He is an editor of New Left Review and regularly contributes to The Guardian, CounterPunch, and the London Review of Books.



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MONDAY JANUARY 30
Environmental Justice from a Native Perspective

Winona LaDuke

7:30 PM – 9:30 PM @ Telus 150

Sponsored by the Office of Sustainability and the Alberta Public Interest Research Group

What responsibilities do we have to the land, the water, and to future generations? How are the environmental issues of our time connected to histories of injustice in Indigenous communities in North America? In recent years, LaDuke has helped move tribal communities in the United States towards wind and alternative energy systems, and influenced tribal and state governments to voluntarily meet the conditions of the Kyoto Accord. How do we create an economy that is divorced from empire, that respects the environment, and that is based on local needs?

Winona LaDuke is an internationally acclaimed Anishinaabe author, orator and activist. She is a founder and Co-Director of Honor the Earth, an advocacy group encouraging public support and funding for Native environmental groups in the United States. In her own community in northern Minnesota, she is the founder of the White Earth Land Recovery Project and a leader on the issues of culturally-based sustainable development strategies, renewable energy and food systems. LaDuke was a 2007 inductee in the National Women's Hall of Fame.



WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 1



Film and Co-Director Michael Galinsky in Attendance
7:00 PM – 9:00 PM @ Metro Cinema at the Garneau Theatre (8712-109 Street)
Sponsored by Global Visions Film Festival
\$10 entrance fee



Take an intimate look at the very public and passionate fight waged by owners and residents in Brooklyn facing condemnation of their property. The struggle is in the face of the controversial Atlantic Yards project, a plan to build 16 skyscrapers and a basketball arena for the New Jersey Nets in the heart of the community. Shot over seven years and compiled from almost 500 hours of footage, Battle for Brooklyn is an epic tale of how far people will go to fight for what they believe.

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 3

1:00 PM – 3:00 PM
@ International Centre Lobby

I-Week Quiz

Sponsored by the Education Abroad Program and International Student Services
Take part in the 24th annual International Week Quiz. The quiz is an exciting and challenging tradition that provides a unique set of questions on global issues to test each team's international quotient (IQ) in a friendly and fun atmosphere. For more info, or to register as an individual or a team, contact 780-492-2692 or email khadija.jetha@ualberta.ca

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 2



Société Réseautée, Médias Sociaux et Changements Politiques en Afrique du Nord

Florencio Ceballos, Spécialiste de Programme Principal, Programme Gouvernance, Sécurité et Justice au Centre de Recherches Pour le Développement International (CRDI)
3:30 PM – 4:50 PM @ Salle 101, Cité Francophone, 8627- 91ST (Rue Marie-Anne Gaboury)

En mobilisant les personnes et les idées et en transformant la nature de la participation citoyenne, les technologies propres aux médias sociaux (téléphone mobile, SMS, Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, la blogosphère) ont joué un rôle important durant le Printemps Arabe; un rôle que l'on ne saisit pas complètement. La question est maintenant de savoir comment les nouvelles formes de cybermilitantisme peuvent contribuer à la promotion du processus de réforme de l'État, à la reconstruction des institutions et à la transition vers des gouvernements plus légitimes et plus inclusifs. De même, comment les gouvernements peuvent-ils utiliser ces technologies pour asseoir leur légitimité et faire preuve d'avantage de transparence?

Florencio Ceballos est spécialiste au sujet de l'accès public aux Technologies de l'Information et de la Communication (TIC), ainsi que le potentiel de ces outils pour le développement des communautés pauvres et marginalisées. M. Ceballos est doctorant en sociologie à l'École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales (EHESS), à Paris, et est titulaire d'un diplôme d'Études Approfondies (DEA) en Sciences de l'Éducation de l'Université Paris 8.

Depuis 1998, Mr. Ceballos prend part dans des initiatives ayant trait aux TIC. Il a enseigné la sociologie de l'éducation, la sociologie de la communication et les TIC-D dans plusieurs universités du Chili. De 2001 à 2005, il était responsable de la recherche à la firme d'Experts-Conseils Ekhos Investigación + Comunicaciones (Ekhos I+C), où son rôle consistait à offrir des occasions de développement aux communautés marginalisées en s'appuyant sur les TIC. Arrivé au CRDI en 2005 à titre d'Administrateur de Programme Principal pour l'Amérique Latine, Florencio Ceballos a été nommé gestionnaire du Programme telecentre.org (un ancien secrétariat du CRDI) en 2007. Après cela, il a été affecté au Programme Croissance Pour Tous.

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 3

Women, Decision-Making and Development

Aliza Dadani, Edmonton Post Secondary Vice-Chair-Ismaili Council for Canada

Donita Large, Indigenous Community Advocate and Skills Training Specialist

Judith Wakhungu, Senior Agriculture Officer, Kenyan Ministry of Agriculture

12:00 PM – 12:50 PM @ TBA, Please check www.globaled.ualberta.ca for session location

Moderator: Rebecca Mellett, CIDA Director, Prairie and Pacific Region

What impact does women’s participation in decision making have on development, and how does this result in poverty alleviation, personal safety and human rights for all? According to the United Nations Development Program, women and girls account for six out of 10 of the poorest people in the world, yet only 18 percent of the world’s parliamentarians are women and one third of all women are subjected to violence. Join us as we discover how the empowerment of women plays a critical role in food security, income generation, access and management of natural resources, personal health and much more.

Aliza Dadani

Edmonton Post Secondary Vice-Chair for the Ismaili Council for Canada and near completion of a double-major undergraduate degree in Political Science and Women and Gender Studies. For two years she ran Youth Leadership Development Initiatives, Afghani Refugee Support Program, and held leadership positions with the International House Community Council and Greenpeace.

Donita Large

A Residential Schools Advisor for Ahlstrom, Wright, Oliver & Cooper LLP, and sole proprietor of Tools for Life Consulting, services in the areas of curriculum design, facilitation of workshops, and Indigenous community capacity building. Two of her professional achievements include Asset Mapping for 8 First Nation Communities in Alberta and coordination of the Grandmothers Guide FASD Conference for First Nations, Métis and Inuit grandmothers.

Judith Wakhungu

Executive Director of the African Centre for Technology Studies in Nairobi, an independent, inter-governmental science, technology, and environmental policy think tank that generates and disseminates knowledge through policy analysis and capacity building. Professor Wakhungu serves on several national and international boards, task forces, and committees, including the African Conservation Centre, the GoDown Arts Centre, the Legatum Centre at MIT and several others.

I-WEEK AT A GLANCE

TIME	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
9:00 AM			New Research on Youth and Democratic Engagement in Canada D1	Middle East in Transition, LIVE from Palestine C3	The Ethics of Complacency E4
9:30 AM		Engaging Democracy: Where is Your Voice? C2		General Assembly as Used in the Occupy Movement D1	
10:00 AM			The Thin REDD Line: Democratic Decision-Making in Curbing Deforestation E3		Coalition-Building to Combat Human Trafficking in Alberta E4
10:30 AM			Living Justice: Global Action for Palestinian Human Rights E5	Social Movements as Learning Spaces E1	Citizen Power in the Context of Labour E3
11:00 AM		Local Citizens and Local Power C2	Canada's and Your International Development Research Centre E4	Networked Society, Social Media, and Political Changes in North Africa E2	
11:30 AM			Global Health and the Media E4		Women, Decision-Making and Development T&A
12:00 PM	Keynote Address: Tariq Ali A1			Providing Enough Food for All: An African Perspective E1	Sessions below run from 1:00 PM – 1:50 PM
12:30 PM		The Myth of Universal Democracy D1	New Media: Free Press or Free Oppression E4	Can Iran's Regime Control the Power of Education? D1	
1:00 PM		Living With Nature: Insights from the Islamic Tradition C2	Queer Nationalism: Social Change and Dialogue Across Borders E5	Creating a New Sub-Class: Temporary Foreign Workers and Human Rights E1	Citizen Solutions: Mobilizing for Water Justice in Nicaragua B2
1:30 PM					Play Around the World: A Transformative Learning Experience B3
2:00 PM	Is Democracy for First Nations? D1	Health Equity in Times of Globalization C2	Lubicon Youth Taking Action on Community Water Issues E4	Ingredients for Good Governance E4	I-Week Quiz F1
2:30 PM	Towards Sustainable Cities – Democracy and Citizenship H1	Indigenous Stories D1	Librarians Gather in Madrid: A New Social Movement E3	Canada's Role in International Aid Transparency E5	Student Refugee Panel: A Reflection on Democratic Processes B1
3:00 PM	Student Social Advocacy and Colonialism D1		Would Proportional Representation Bring True Citizen Power? I1	Société réseautée, médias sociaux et changements politiques en Afrique du Nord 101 Cité Francophone	Sen Preference: Implications on the Status of Women B4
3:30 PM		Necessity of Breaking the Law as a Democratic Act H1	Deepening Democracy Across Africa: Any Role for China? H1		
4:00 PM	Palestine: Democracy in 2012? H2	Preparing to Study or Volunteer Abroad H2	North Africa in Focus: a Year After: Lessons and Prospects from the Arab Spring F3	A Place for Pragmatic Policy or Peaceful Protest? The Occupy Wall Street Debate I2	Bill 44: Democratic or Dangerous? I3
4:30 PM	Film: Beats of Freedom H1		Art: Creation of Culture Rather Than Consumer of Culture D1		Governance According to Need I2
5:00 PM	Let's Figure it Out: Democracy on Stage B5	Cosmopolitan Democracies: Active Citizenships in a Time of Global Transformations H3	Make a Living while Making a Difference Career Forum A4		
5:30 PM		Activists and Youth Voices Unite Live Across Cultures J1	Evoking the Dancing Spirit I1		
6:00 PM	Painting for Change: Youth Citizenship through Mural Art I1				
6:30 PM					
7:00 PM					
7:30 PM	Environmental Justice from a Native Perspective C1	Indigenous Sovereignty: Expressions from Post-Secondary Institutions in Alberta C1	Film: Battle for Brooklyn Gameau Theatre		
8:00 PM				Glimpsing Democracy's Future: Deliberative Innovations in India, Brazil, Canada, and the United States I1	I-Week 2012 Concert Finale: Good People G1
8:30 PM					
9:00 PM					
9:30 PM					
10:00 PM					

INTERNATIONAL WEEK CONCERT 2012

GOOD
PEOPLE

February 3, 2012

Myer Horowitz Theatre

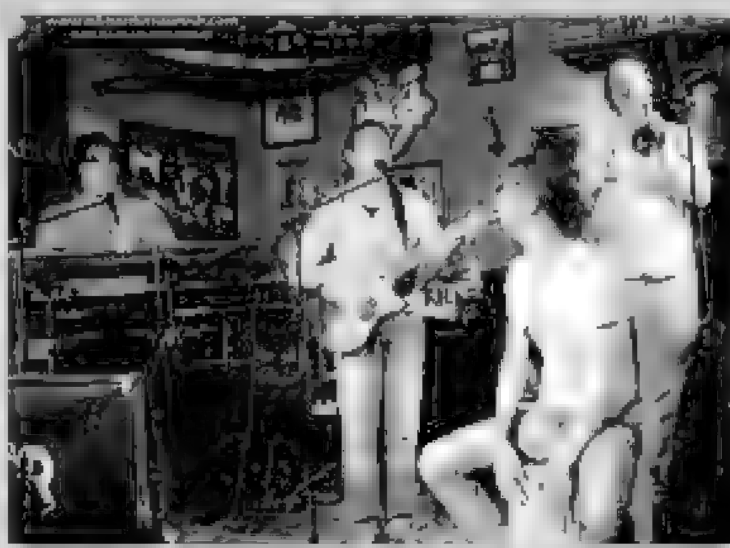
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Concert starts at 7:30 pm

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La Luna de Santiago



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Ryan Bromsgrove

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Editor

Opinion meetings Wednesdays at 5 p.m. in 3-04 SUB. C'mon by!

EDITORIAL COMMENT

Cuts and fees reveal a failing institution

THE UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA IS FACING A NIGHTMARE SCENARIO, stuck between keeping up appearances and dealing with an increasingly horrible funding situation. There's less money to go around, but the administration tries to play it down like there's nothing the matter. And to make matters worse, the board is considering opening up regulations on mandatory non-instructional fees and removing the need for student referendums to approve increases beyond the consumer price index.

Mandatory non-instructional fees are not regulated by the province. This means that unlike tuition, which is capped at CPI, the board of governors can decide to implement whatever new MNIFs of whatever value they desire. The \$290 CoSSS fee students are already paying is an MNIF, and all it required to be implemented was the approval of the BoG. However, for the BoG to increase MNIFs beyond CPI, they currently need to go to student referendum for approval — a rule they're trying to eliminate. The SU is rightly standing up and making this an issue, saying that if the provincial government won't regulate MNIFs, at least the BoG can concede that any such fees should be put to student referendum before being implemented. But the BoG isn't accepting this without a fight. They want the power to introduce or increase any fees without student referendum — confirming that things have gone from bad to worse here.

Meanwhile, President Indira Samarasekera told the *Edmonton Journal* the cuts being implemented across the institution weren't that bad — calling them “modest” — and won't have a negative impact on the student experience. She said the six per cent increases to grant funding a few years ago, along with the major increases to tuition at the time, set the university up and allowed them to install new infrastructure, like campus Wi-Fi and adding new buildings.

To a point, she's right. Buildings such as NREF, ETLC, CCIS and the ECHA are great new additions to campus. And UWS wi-fi is a major improvement over the horrible system that came before it. At the same time, those six per cent increases were also meant to offset spiraling wage costs and other issues as the overheated Alberta economy bit into the university budget. And now the budget stagnates as everyone is expected to do more with less.

The problem is the disconnect between what the president is saying and what's happening on the ground level. As the president calls the cuts “modest,” they ravage various departments and faculties. Arts cut 10 faculty positions this year so far, and could continue cutting if the budget situation gets worse. The Faculty of Science eliminated 55 positions over the last year and a half. Computing Sciences had to cut five staff positions that supported teaching labs and have not been able to upgrade some labs in almost 10 years.

Most worrying when it comes metrics is the student-to-professor ratio, which heading in the wrong direction. After years of hiring professors and bringing down the ratio, it's slowly creeping up again, hitting the other side of 20 students per professor.

All the while, the university continues to pretend like the problems aren't that bad, looking for band-aid fixes to the problem. Tuition continues to go up each year, and though it's a relatively small amount each time, add to that the CoSSS fee, and students are paying significantly more now than they were in years previous, and getting less for it. It's the incremental changes to fees, whether new additions or increases, that really give the charade away.

Samarasekera claims that cuts won't affect the student experience, but that the BoG is continually looking for ways to increase fees proves otherwise. Here at the U of A, we already pay one of the highest rates of non-tuition fees in the country. The SU deserves credit for making fees an issue, because the administration clearly isn't looking out for students' interests — not with the cuts they're making and the fees they've implemented.

Everyone wants to see the University of Alberta grow and become an even better place of learning. But high-level administration, including President Samarasekera, have their heads too far in the sky to deal with the situation. They're more concerned about international rankings or government relations to worry about little things like the student experience or staff happiness. So they'll increase fees, hoping no one takes notice as they nickel and dime us to death one fee at a time.

Justin Bell
MANAGING EDITOR

EDITORIAL NOTE

Embezzlement for all

I just want to say
BSA is BS, eh?
Hip hip hip hooray!

Ross Vincent
DESIGN & PRODUCTION EDITOR



ROSS VINCENT

Letters to the editor

FROM THE WEB

BSA statement comes much too late

(Re: “Student embezzled \$27,000 from Business Students’ Association” by April Hudson, Jan. 23)

Not going to lie, revealing information such as this six months later, let alone to the whole world was the worst idea possible. If they were to reveal something, they should have done it way sooner instead of sparking speculation since August. The BSA has shed itself in a very negative light by doing so. And really, this and a breach of personal student information? Good example.

“Anonymous”
VIA INTERNET

BSA incident should be seen as an isolated event

(Re: “Student embezzled \$27,000 from Business Students’ Association” by April Hudson, Jan. 23)

As a former executive of the BSA, I feel it is important to remind those reading this article that the actions of an individual member should not be used as a reflection on the entire society nor faculty.

This would seem obvious to most, but what saddens me more than the fact that a member of the BSA would take advantage of the hard work and dedication of so many, is that people respond to this article with attitudes of complete ignorance and arrogance. The BSA has always, and especially

most recently, been dedicated to nothing but being fully dedicated to the betterment of the student body. That is a legacy I was incredibly proud to be a part of, and one that I know was carried forward by executives after me and present. For evidence of this, look no further than the many events, services, initiatives and projects the organization puts forth year after year.

Thus, let us not rush to make conclusions based on the actions of one member. This is not an “ongoing situation” but rather an isolated incident and should be seen as such.

Sikandar Atiq
VIA INTERNET

Embezzlement strips business students of respect

(Re: “Student embezzled \$27,000 from Business Students’ Association” by April Hudson, Jan. 23)

As a business student at the U of A this is a huge embarrassment for all of us. While never being a member of the BSA, nearly all of our student body activities are dealt through them; including our school magazine, *Lazy Faire*, in which I am a writer. I think what this individual does not realize is this theft makes everyone affiliated with the BSA look suspicious and untrustworthy. I have personally recommended countless BSA events in the magazine not to mention I have trusted them with my own money in selling my books at the BSA Booksale. How can we expect the university at large to respect us as a faculty and not

just that “oh those business students, gettin started early on embezzling money.” I can only speak for myself but I find this news sickening and embarrassing as a business student and I hope that we can find a commensurate means to bring this thief to justice before the school, the students, and the law. Our school has been harmed by this intolerable abuse of trust.

Matt Crowley
VIA INTERNET

Release of name important next step

(Re: “Student embezzled \$27,000 from Business Students’ Association” by April Hudson, Jan. 23)

Please release the name! I think most employers out there would like to know if the student/graduate they could potentially hire embezzled thousands of dollars in the past. This wasn't some dumb mistake from a teenager, but from a grown adult that should have known better.

“Potential Employer”
VIA INTERNET

Thief ruins work on positive image

(Re: “Student embezzled \$27,000 from Business Students’ Association” by April Hudson, Jan. 23)

Great, after three years of hard work in Business and trying to make a difference in the community one student club and one student ruined the positive image the faculty has

American election shows a sorry state of decline



Ryan Bromsgrove
OPINION EDITOR

Complain as we might about Canada's government, at least we're not embroiled in the absolute failure to run a compelling election seen south of the border. With the recent slew of drop-outs in the Republican race, November's presidential election is shaping up to be an incumbent Democrat nobody really wants versus an old white Republican nobody really wants.

You can point out that Canada's system has seen majority governments elected with 35 or 40 per cent of the popular vote, but at least those who did vote Conservative can get behind Stephen Harper as someone they like — which is in spite of his lack of charisma, but there you are.

But it's hard to imagine Democrats gathering together in the same numbers as they did in 2008, chanting about change and "yes we can" in the wake of three years of no change. Their bubble has been burst under the realization that no we can't. There are powerful and moneyed interests out there that don't give two shits about how many people show up for a rally.

Obama's presidency was supposed to be a historic point for the beleaguered U.S. Guantanamo was supposed to be closed, but 171 detainees remain. The Patriot Act was supposed to be revisited. Nope. Extend, extend, extend. Then there's the National Defense Authorization Act of 2012 which Obama signed, allowing for the indefinite detention of American citizens suspected of terrorist activities

"Look, politicians like sex: so does everyone. Grow up and worry about whether or not he'll destroy the economy, or civil liberties or the constitution. Because right now, 'I'll won't make anything worse' sounds like a pretty sweet deal for our friends in the States.."

without a trial. And the NDAA doesn't restrict itself to a warzone, by the way. The American Civil Liberties Union argues that the bill allows for detention no matter the geographical location.

In a statement, Obama said "I want to clarify that my Administration will not authorize the indefinite military detention without trial of American citizens." But unless somebody plans to alter to constitution to allow for the installation of an immortal Obama as permanent benevolent dictator, that statement is just a little short-sighted. But hey, at least homosexuals are now able to fight and die in the next war without keeping their orientation a secret.

Meanwhile in the Republican race, we're all too busy focusing on whether or not Newt Gingrich wanted an open marriage with one of his wives more than a decade ago to worry about anything that matters. Look, politicians like sex: so does everyone. Grow up and worry about whether or not he'll destroy the economy, or civil liberties or the constitution. Because right now, "I'll won't make anything worse" sounds like a pretty sweet deal for our friends in the States.

Then there's Mitt Romney, who more or less personifies the idea of "rich as shit and out of touch" by revealing he pays 15 per cent in income taxes. To put that in perspective, the BBC describes Romney as "a multi-millionaire with three homes (living) mainly on income from his investments." In a

sane political climate, this would disgust voters more than learning of Dan Savage's brutal rebranding of the word "Santorum." But somehow he's still a serious contender for the Republican nomination.

You're told that in a democracy you get to vote for your government. You're told that everyone gets a voice equally as loud as the next. Then you're told that you'll never find the perfect candidate, that you have to choose the one that best approximates your views.

But what happens when that's a lie? When nobody gets close to representing what you want? When your voice is drowned out by grotesque piles of money injected into the political system like drugs, swaying politicians away from the real world of real voters and into a fantastic make-believe nightmare world of endless war, restriction of liberties in the name of fear, consolidation of power and a non-stop bending of the knee to people who will never, ever have enough money?

When nobody actually wants any of the candidates for president, continuing to call the U.S. a democracy is a joke. So I'll take what we have here in Canada, imperfect as it is, and be happy that we all mourned Jack Layton, that Harper actually does have a lot of enthusiastic support and be optimistic that the Liberals can find someone that people can get behind. Right now, the U.S. looks like a sick dog crying out to be put out of its misery and that's not funny. It's sad.

Internet blackouts led to promising results



Adrian Lahola-Chomiak
OPINION STAFF

Last Wednesday, students everywhere were forced to dust off their old copy of Encarta '95 in the face of the Wikipedia blackout protesting the Stop Online Piracy Act and the Protect IP Act. To the uninitiated, SOPA and PIPA were two pieces of legislation facing the United States congress which would have essentially given American corporations the power to censor websites without due process if copyright infringement was suspected.

However, in the face of widespread backlash from the internet led by giants such as Wikipedia, Google and content aggregator Reddit, culminating in the Jan. 18 blackout, support dissolved for the bills in their current state. This new wave of internet activism sets a strong precedent for the future of protests, one far more effective than the clever sign-waving contests of the past.

While many of us may have been left scrambling to find access to a free, mostly correct academic source, the shelving of SOPA is worth any number of days without our favourite crowd-sourced encyclopedia. Nothing has made the internet more successful than its status as a truly free and open platform for the exchange of ideas and information. These two pieces of legislation threatened to undermine that freedom, and in return they were greeted by the kind of overwhelming dissent only a giant network could facilitate.

Awareness grew in forums and blogs, and a true modern day grassroots movement sprung up. Web communities such as r/politics put the hurt on representatives who supported the bill and eventually garnered corporate allies amongst Reddit Inc. and Google. By the time Reddit announced its 12-hour blackout in protest the opposition movement had already grown significantly beyond what supporters of the bill likely imagined they would be up against. On the day of the blackout, more than 110,000 sites participated in a co-ordinated effort to send a message against corporate tyranny.

Unlike other protests in recent

memory such as Occupy Wall Street, the SOPA/PIPA opposition brought a strong message and targeted those who would be most affected.

Your average Internet user may not frequent nerdy forums or be well-informed on what pieces of draconic legislation are before the American congress, but they do use sites like Wikipedia. The blackout exposed to those people what a SOPA/PIPA world might look like, and also offered information on what they could do to help. Thanks to their efforts, more than 10 million people signed a petition against the bills and the balance of power shifted decidedly against SOPA/PIPA in the senate.

More than 110,000 sites participated in a co-ordinated effort to send a message against corporate tyranny.

In contrast, Occupy Wall Street showed up angry and in your face with big signs and a cacophony of demands, and as a result faced a massive public relations nightmare, failing to provide opportunities for non-occupiers to get involved, and not focusing on spreading awareness beyond shouting things about "corporate pigs."

What the blackout accomplished more than anything else was raising awareness of the issue in tandem with making clear the danger that supposed "anti-piracy" legislation could have. If even a small fraction of visitors walked away with an appreciation for a what an open internet really is and why it's important, it will have been far more successful than the occupy movement.

The challenge to internet freedom is not yet through. Right now, the Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement and the Protect Children from Online Pornographers Act are both working their way towards becoming law. Both contain strong anti-privacy measures.

But while the threat of ACTA — and the potential return of SOPA and PIPA in new forms — looms over the horizon, the environment for opposition has changed drastically. The internet has shown that it won't take threats lightly. A strong opposition campaign showed that activism based in awareness and not anger is the way forward.



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the burlap sack

The Bookstore is yet another part of the University of Alberta that's trying to take students' money — not with their high prices, but with their ridiculous deadline for winter textbook returns. If you weren't aware, any winter textbooks you bought this term could only be returned to the bookstore by Jan. 21 this year, while the Add/Drop deadline was Jan. 20. So if you decided not to take a class at the last minute and dropped it late on Friday, you would have had to come into the bookstore on Saturday between 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. to return the books you'd no longer need. If you were working or couldn't make it in on that one day, you were SOL.

This is the situation I found myself in. I bought a book that I will no longer need for a class, but when I came in to return it on Monday, I found that the winter return

deadline had passed. Nevermind that I had bought the book on Jan. 18. Nevermind that the Add/Drop deadline was only Friday. I had less than a seven-day window normally given by major retailers.

This move by the bookstore is ridiculous. They are intentionally making it difficult for students to return textbooks that they no longer need, because it means more money for them. At the very least, the fair thing to do would be to allow the Monday after the Add/Drop deadline for returns. Students are busy and not all of them can come on the one day after the deadline allotted for returns. I know that the deadline was prominently advertised, but it doesn't make it any more fair or right. And that's why I'm putting the bookstore and their deadline in the Burlap Sack.

The Burlap Sack is a semi-regular feature where a person or group who needs to be put in a sack and beaten is ridiculed in print. No sack beatings are actually administered.

Is joining a Greek letter organization valuable?

Fraternities and sororities enrich the university experience for many students



Owais Yahya
OPINION WRITER

Despite the negative stereotypes associated with doing so, joining a Greek letter society can have an enriching effect on the university lives of its members.

Fraternities and sororities offer a multitude of academic and social benefits for their members, while also contributing charitably to the communities around them. Greek letter societies encourage academic excellence, offering scholarships to members every year, and also encourage academic support between members. They also give their members invaluable networking, making post-graduation job searches easier as well as giving members contacts in cities throughout North America.

In regards to community service and philanthropy, an enormous amount of fundraising and community service hours performed on campus come from members of fraternities and sororities. In 2010-11, Greek members raised more than \$127,500

for charity and performed more than 12,600 community service hours.

Being part of the Greek system at the University of Alberta has enriched my university experience. It's given me the opportunity to help run a complex organization and develop my leadership skills through conventions and workshops. The skills I acquired and the experiences I had being part of the fraternity are going to be an important part of my post-university career.

While Greek letter organizations offer many benefits for their members, they have unfortunately declined in popularity over recent years. One of the most common criticisms is they promote drinking. But they don't promote drinking any more than regular university life does. If anything, normal university life promotes drinking more than Greek organizations — every student's year starts off with beer gardens, and at clubs fair discount cards for bars and nightclubs are distributed. Many Greek societies actually have restrictions on alcohol both in their houses and at events. All Panhellenic Council sororities at the University of Alberta have dry-housing policies and cannot have alcohol at any of their events.

My opponent might argue that you don't need to be in a fraternity in order to have a close group of friends who can help you succeed. While true, the bond of brotherhood created in a fraternity is a different kind of friendship, and this is something that is emphasized during the pledge process of most Greek societies. This bond is not unlike that shared by members of a sports team, who realize that co-operation is necessary for success.

Although most Greek societies embody the benefits discussed above, incidents such as hazing at the Delta Kappa Epsilon fraternity last year harm all Greek societies on a campus by perpetuating negative stereotypes.

Although the exception rather than the rule, they tend to be the only ones discussed in the media, and along with alcohol consumption are commonly associated with Greek societies in Hollywood films. In order to fight back against these stereotypes, what Greek organizations need to do is to promote the positive aspects and the philanthropy of the majority of Greek organizations through the media, rather than wait for the media to pick up on the hazing activities of a few exceptions.

Nothing the Greek societies offer is different to what you can accomplish alone



Josh Schmaltz
OPINION STAFF

How is joining a fraternity going to help you get ahead in life? Well, it isn't. The same goes for sororities. These "Greek letter organizations" have nothing unique to offer — and if anything, they hold you back from reaching your full potential.

Let's start off with the so-called "academic advantage" that these organizations purportedly offer. Join a fraternity and you'll get unlimited access to tutors, assignment help, and exam reviews: your grades are pretty much guaranteed to go up — maybe. I hope I'm not the first one to be telling you this, but university is for grown-ups. Your success depends on you alone. Get help with your classes if you think you need it, but I assure you, someday you will have to stand on your own. You won't be able to call your tutor to your office when you aren't sure how to fill out that T.P.S. report.

Greek organizations fail here on two fronts. There are numerous resources out there to help you when you are struggling with school — many of them are free — and you also need to learn how to survive

without these resources. Joining an academic fraternity is nothing more than a crutch for you to avoid taking full responsibility for your work.

How about the "lifelong friends" you make if you join a Greek letter organization? You all wear sweat-pants with the same three Greek symbols on them, so you must be friends, right?

Thanks to your secret connections, you'll have an advantage when you are looking for a job. The only problem is that everyone has "secret" contacts, so there really is no secret.

Sure, you'd make friends if you joined that fraternity, but it is also likely that there will be some people that you are indifferent to or perhaps don't like at all. You can't just fork over the membership dues and expect to find a bunch of people that you can chum around with. You want to find some friends? Look around in your classes and in your labs. There are always some douchebags, but in my experience there are good friends to be made out of lab partners at the very least. You're already

paying enough in tuition, so there is no reason to be paying even more to make friends.

Then there's hazing. The vast majority of Greek letter organizations don't do it, and they all explicitly forbid hazing as part of their rules and regulations. However, hazing is like speeding on the highway: you don't get in trouble as long as you don't get caught. There are bad apples out there, so there is always a risk that you happen to pick the fraternity that's secretly abusing its pledges.

Perhaps the best selling points of a Greek letter organization are the career contacts obtained through membership in the group. Thanks to your secret connections, you'll have an advantage when you are looking for a job. The only problem is that everyone has "secret" contacts, so there really is no secret. There are countless career networking events on campus each year, so no one should ever have a problem building their list of career contacts.

Greek letter organizations merely offer a watered-down version of things that you can do just fine on your own. You don't need the Happy Meal version of real life that you get when you join a fraternity, and you definitely don't need the elitist attitude that usually comes with the membership. Grow a pair and take control of your own life. You'll thank me later.

never use it, but knowing it's there is a comforting reassurance.

Eating on campus is always a tricky affair, trying to find something that's tasty, filling and won't burn a hole in your pocket. And while the food at CAB isn't cheap, it's definitely worth it. And for that reason, I'm putting the CAB cafeteria on the Marble Pedestal.

The Marble Pedestal is a semi-regular feature where we take something worthy of praise and go nuts showing we love it.

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Black Dog

the marble pedestal

Jason Bell

Imagine this mind picture if you will. It's just before lunch on campus and you're incredibly hungry. You skipped breakfast and are now craving something meaty. But where do you go?

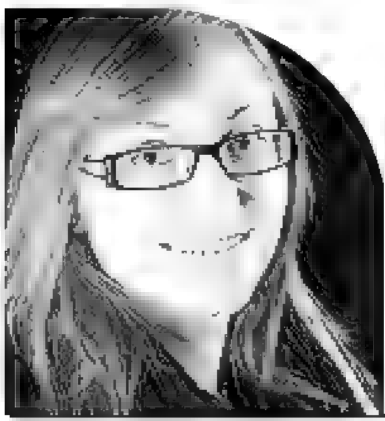
The answer used to be anywhere but CAB. The food was borderline inedible and greasier than a pig

in a heat wave. But since the addition of new food vendors in the last year, CAB is now the place to be on campus for food. It's come full circle in the on-campus eating world.

Two of my favourite eateries are situated in the Central Academic Building — Fat Franks and Filistix. Want tasty chicken? Filistix has you covered. Craving a tube of meat? No one does it better than Fat Franks. There's also Eva Sweet for desert or a tasty breakfast, and the cafeteria features a healthy alternative in their salad bar. You'll probably

Tipping: the right thing to do, or useless practice?

Servers deserve something extra for giving great service



Alana Willerton
POINT

When people confidently declare to the world that they don't tip their servers at restaurants, I can't help but grimace. As a server at Boston Pizza, I think I speak for all servers out there when I say that these are exactly the kind of people we can't stand. There is nothing more frustrating or annoying than putting your time and effort into serving a table, only to have them leave without bothering to leave a tip in return.

What these people fail to realize is that servers actually make a lower level of minimum wage than other jobs. While the hourly minimum wage in Alberta is \$9.40 for most employees, any worker serving liquor as part of their regular job receive an hourly minimum wage of \$9.05. This includes — you guessed it — most servers.

The reasoning behind this lower wage is that servers should be able to supplement it with the tips they make while on shift. Serving is a thankless job that no one does for the wage; tips are how they make their real living. But it's getting harder and harder to make that living while more people continue to refrain from tipping.

Even when a server is tipped for their service, they still don't get to keep all of that money. Servers are required to "tip out" a certain percentage of their sales each night to the hostesses, bussers, kitchen staff and bartender. Servers are forced to tip out regardless of whether or not they've been tipped, since it is based on the total amount of food and drinks sold.

By not tipping, you are indirectly forcing your server to pay for you to eat out of their

own pocket from the money they've already made that night.

On any given night serving at Boston Pizza, I ring in anywhere from \$500 to \$1,000 worth of food. Of that money, I'm required to tip out 2.5 per cent to the rest of the staff. That may not seem like much, but at other restaurants the tip out rate is even higher.

▪ **(Servers) are not required to get you multiple drink refills, to figure out how split a table's bill between 10 people or deal with the hassle of a 40-person hockey team. But they'll do it.**

At a place like Earl's, servers are actually required to tip out 5 to 6 per cent, depending on whether they serve in the dining room or lounge. By tipping, you are essentially showing your appreciation to not only your server, but to the people who sat you, who made your food, and who cleaned up after you.

Some people disagree with the idea of tipping simply because they can't understand why they should have to tip someone for doing their job. But a server's basic job is to take your order and bring you your food. What you're tipping for outside of that is the experience. They are not required to get you multiple drink refills, to figure out how split a table's bill between 10 people or deal with the hassle of a 40-person hockey team. But they'll do it. They do it to ensure that you have a quality time at their restaurant, and they deserve to be tipped in return for that.

Still, it's true that you're not technically obligated to tip. You may get the evil eye from your server on your way out, but it's not illegal for you to simply get up and leave without tipping. Do us all a favour in the future though: If you're not going to tip, don't come out at all.

Tipping is a worthless social norm we'd be best without



Nick Ong
COUNTERPOINT

Mr. Pink said it best. "You know what this is?" he asks, rubbing two fingers together. "The world's smallest violin playing just for the waitresses."

I couldn't put it better myself. Think about it. Why, exactly, do we tip servers? We tip the server instead of the grocery cashier. We see that cashier over and over, they don't get paid much, and they bag our groceries for us. We don't tip the McDonalds worker, even though they're doing more or less the same thing as the restaurant server. But no, the system has been perverted to the extent that tips are expected of us even if the service was below par for fear of what will be in our food the next time we visit.

Even assuming tipping is the right thing to do, basing it on a percentage is absurd. Using this system, we tip a server at Ruth's Chris more than one at Denny's, not based on how much work they actually did carrying a meal from the kitchen to our tables, but on how much the meal happens to cost — the preparation of which they in no way contributed to. What would happen if Denny's started serving foie gras? Should we pay the servers there \$40 in tips just because they carried the same plate that a Moons Over My Hammy comes out to us on? I think not.

Even if we do tip, it's highly unlikely the service we receive on our next visit will get any better or any worse dependent upon it. Research conducted by Michael Lynn of Cornell shows a less than two per cent correlation between tipping and quality of service, proving that our current system of tipping does not actually do anything to encourage better service. Lynn also found that 44 per cent of Americans prefer

to have waiters paid higher wages instead of tips as opposed to only 22 per cent looking to use tips as an inducement for good service. We therefore aren't tipping because we believe we are getting good service, but because we think we have to. Clearly, the institution of tipping has developed a major flaw: what was once a monetary reward to motivate a worker has now become an expected portion of the server's income.

▪ **Society pressures us to tip workers in particular jobs, justifying it by making it the norm to pay them low wages.**

I'm not blaming the server for expecting tips. Having worked a similar job, I can relate to the necessity of tips. The problem here is that society pressures us to tip workers in particular jobs, justifying it by making it the norm to pay them low wages. Not only does this pressure make us feel guilty about not paying extra for something we already paid for, it traps servers in a never-ending quest to make enough tips to make ends meet when in many cases, it doesn't actually matter how hard they work.

On the other hand, in other cultures, tipping is so rare that servers return your "change" if you leave it on the table — because they're paid a living wage for their work. Imagine that. My sympathies lie with the servers who don't receive my tip. It is not their fault the system has been rigged the way it is. But nor is it mine. Just because I know how it feels to be reliant on tips does not mean I am willing to donate to you out of sympathy.

So to all the waiters and waitresses reading this, as much as I understand your financial woe, I don't feel I must tip you simply because the social norm is that I do. It's not my fault we're all in the position we're in.

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Blame the thief, not the faculty

EMBEZZLEMENT • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

It's an unfair reputation, and it needs to be fought. Most business students aren't waiting for that shining moment where they can spread their tendrils throughout an organization, leech it dry and leave town. There's nothing wrong with studying business. It's always been a vital part of civilization, and there are surely a great number of talented business students with great ideas at our university — but they're going to have to speak up now. Loudly.

There are a lot of corrupt organizations out there, and the BSA is in the relatively fortunate position that its leaders change over annually. One bad year can be turned around by a new team willing to step up to the challenge of inheriting the tarnished organization, improving its image and showing its importance to the business student community.

What's important isn't lashing out at an organization with annual turnover, but ensuring it gets back to operating properly, with honest leadership...

And with that possibility in mind, though business students should be concerned over the potential renewal of the BSA's membership levy — the referendum for which requires the approval of Students' Council, undiscussed as of time of print — abandoning the organization now will be unnecessarily disruptive. The decision that business students now find themselves with is one concerning the mandate of their faculty association, and in light of the embezzlement they

may find it difficult to justify an extension of the fee. But many students have spoken highly of the services that the BSA has provided in the past. A glance at the website shows a calendar packed full of events and services, links to a variety of clubs and opportunities for conference funding. Taking a financial hit — for the second year in a row — would impair the BSA's ability, under proper leadership to function well. What's important isn't lashing out at an organization with annual turnover, but ensuring it gets back to operating properly, with honest leadership, as soon as possible.

Instead of letting the BSA rot to the core, becoming nothing more than a punchline to a long tedious train of jokes, now is the time for business students to take it back, and prove to campus that they're a faculty like any other — not just an old boys' club out for no one but themselves.

LETTERS • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

been working on. I really like the BP example, exactly like it.

"Enron"
VIA INTERNET

Paying early costs students lost interest

(Re: "Students' Union pushing for removal of installment fee" by Alex Migdal, Jan. 18)

It costs the university at least some money to be without the second half of fees for four months? Why should I have to pay for a product months before I receive it? This is a late payment penalty for not paying four months early. In fact, if I pay my tuition "in full" in September, the university should pay me \$40 for my forgone investment income.

Megan Fox
VIA INTERNET

Campus news not worthy of campus newspaper

(Re: "Council should not suppress careless mistakes" by Ryan Bromsgrove, Jan. 18)

I think the world has more pressing issues than 72 student ID numbers getting released.

Why don't you use your shitty campus newspaper to write something worth reading.

"TH"
VIA INTERNET

Council shouldn't go in-camera so easily

(Re: "Council should not suppress careless mistakes" by Ryan Bromsgrove, Jan. 18)

If Council wants to prevent similar articles in the future, the solution is simple: don't go into in-camera so

wrecklessly. There was actually no debate on the motion to go in-camera, meaning that councilors voted "yes" on the proposal without knowing why it was proposed in the first place. If you want to defend yourself next time, ask why it's being proposed in the first place.

James Tobin
VIA INTERNET

Letters to the editor should be sent to letters@gateway.ualberta.ca (no attachments please).

The Gateway reserves the right to edit letters for length and clarity, and to refuse publication of any letter it deems racist, sexist, libellous, or otherwise hateful in nature. The Gateway also reserves the right to publish letters online.

Letters should be no longer than 350 words, and should include the author's name, program, year of study, and student ID number.

#3LF

three lines free

Got something that you need to get off your mind? Either email us at threelinesfree@gateway.ualberta.ca, tweet @threelinesfree, or message us at www.thegatewayonline.ca/threelinesfree

fuck you i like mullets!
as a ginger, one might describe me as 'lovely', my laugh is known to some as 'silly', and my favorite location is 'fourth floor chem'.
Dear guy in BIOL 207 Ho3 lab, You are seriously cute and funny. We should get to know each other.
To the people in the back few rows of psych 281: Be quiet. Especially you, girl who hates HM and claims to know everything. Don't show up if you know it all.
19/m/ETLC
Campus needs some silent computer labs. I'm fucking sick of the screaming and laughing assholes who sit in the labs and watch YouTube all day.
Csorba and Tamagishi were not awkward in their videoblog. They were smooth and interesting. It's easy to criticize when you are anonymous.
you in the plaid shirt who are you?
I want you so bad but you're my best friend. I can't ruin what we have.
So, a random cute girl in SUB has the courage to come up to me and say she likes my outfit, but I'm too shy even to utter a full thank-you without stumbling over my words. THIS is why I'm still single.
So glad that I finished all my classes last term. Never again will the U of A get another cent out of me.

University Tip #1: If you're the only person/group in a room or area that is talking, chances are you shouldn't be.
Tory to Med Sci in 10 minutes? Impossible! Give us moving sidewalks, Samarasekera.
To the couple who were "just friends" in the small study room in the telus building who kept bugging each other and throwing each other's possessions on the floor-way to mature. I thought bugging each other and whining was grade school flirting, guess I was wrong.
Three people in a row almost walked into me. Pulled out my phone to complain on tlf. Almost walked into the next person I passed. Karma's a bitch.
Technically, taking free newspapers isn't stealing.
Why are there chairs in quad
Dear Nicole Henry: the plural for vice president academic is vice presidents academic. also, have some fun sometime - you'll like it.
Well, talking in the library is a stupid thing to do, so it follows that those who do it loudly would have the stupidest things to say.
I stopped dating hipsters and my life got eighty times better. Sorry, Profile magazine stars who are mediocre in the sack! You've been replaced!
Where's my money!

Where does the money from the CoSSS go? What is it being spent on?
Too many arts students are making 3LF's. I don't want to read anymore haiku's. Sincerely, a science student.
You make me feel, powerfully. I will destroy your dreams and make you hate, but I am selfish.
What's on Saturday?
A Taste of Animethon!
Joyous fun for some.
But another day, I'm heading off to bed now
Nighty night, sleep tight.
I think there's a need for a new course: Procrastination 101.
Is it just me or does UWS suck?
I've been logging on as a Guest at the UofA, I hate this place.
don't tell me how much you studied last night. I don't give a shit, studied less and will do better than you.
Dear Classics 303 student: raising your hand 12 times (yes, I counted) during an 80 minute class is generally not considered a good thing.
Yours, someone in the class.
It sounds like someone's trapped in the wall here...
The Gateway reserves the right to refuse publication of any submission it deems sexist, racist or otherwise hateful in nature. We can't print every submission, but we promise to try.

I JUST FAILED A CLASS... WHAT NOW?

OH NO...

SATURDAY 4TH FEBRUARY

NEED TO GET BACK ON TRACK?

TAKE BACK THE TERM!

HOW CAN I START DOING BETTER?

THIS SEMESTER IS EVEN HARDER!

HOW CAN I MANAGE MY TIME BETTER?

WHERE CAN I GO TO GET SOME HELP?

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WWW.BEARSDEN.UALBERTA.CA/TBT2

COMIC BOOK CHARACTER STUDY

The Juggernaut

Pros: Magically imbued with superhuman strength and invulnerability. Vengeful, destructive, and unstoppable.

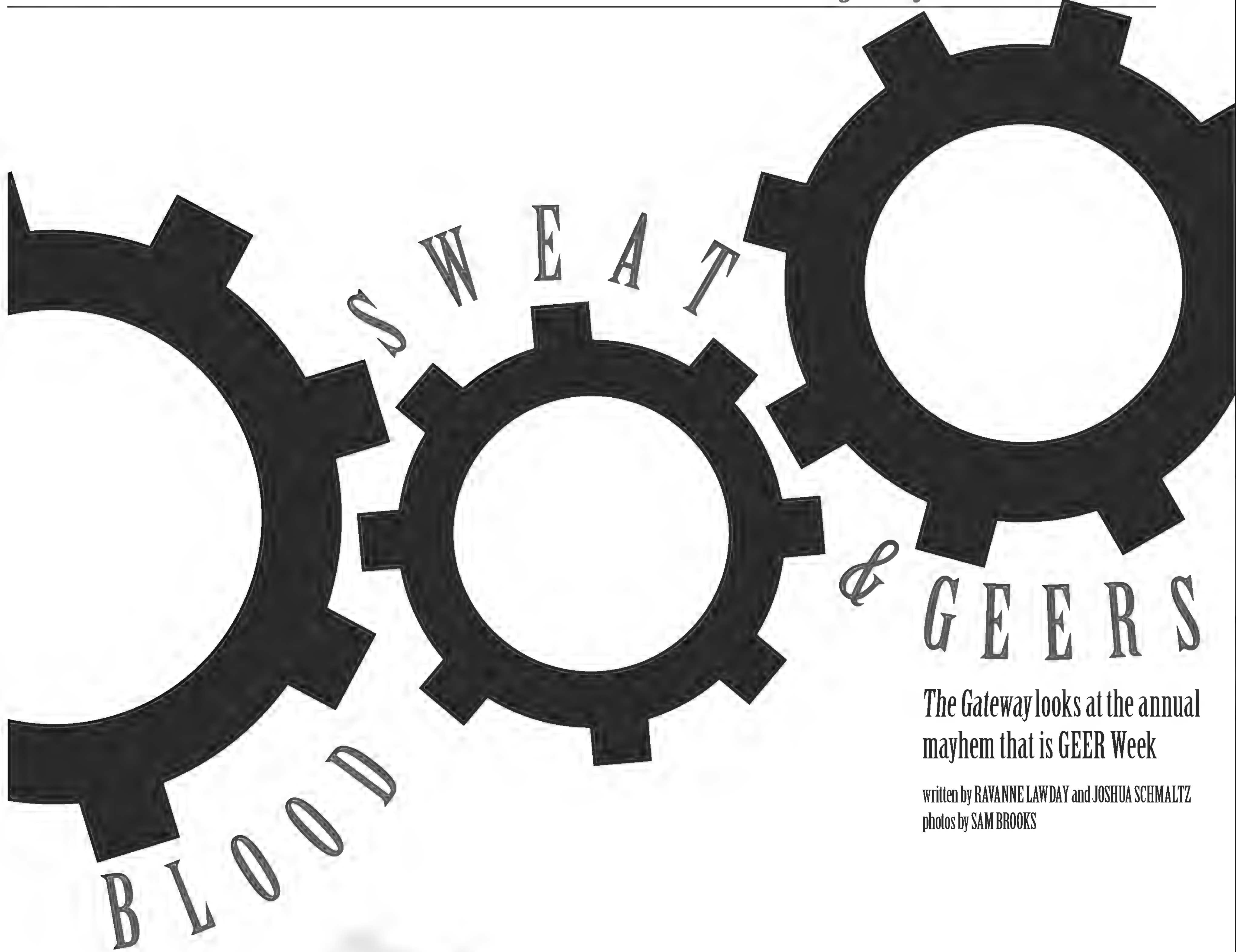
Cons: Gets upset when you don't know who the f*** he is. (Hint: He's the Juggernaut, bitch)

gatewaycomics

YOUR GATEWAY TO UNSTOPPABLE INTERNET MEMES

COMICS MEETINGS ARE MONDAYS AT 5 P.M. IN 3-04 SUB

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The Gateway looks at the annual mayhem that is GEER Week

written by RAVANNE LAWDAY and JOSHUA SCHMALTZ
photos by SAM BROOKS

If there's one thing that a total outsider can take from this year's Geer Week, it's that nobody can imitate Horatio Caine, the one-man murder solving genius from *CSI: Miami*, quite like the members of Engineering Physics.

This year, the Engineering Physics team took on a pop-culture approach to the week-long competition between engineering departments, selecting CSPsy as their theme and working it into the different activities the engineers compete in during the week. The name is a play on the popular Crime Scene Investigation shows that replaces the I for the Greek letter representing "Psi."

The returning Geer Week champions are one of the smallest departments within the Faculty of Engineering. With a mere 67 students, the tight-knit Engineering Physics club managed to come out on top last year, and everyone is gunning for them in 2012.

The week kicks off with a sort of pre-event, a chance for everyone to mingle before the real competition begins. The Country Crusade is a tradition for everyone in engineering to enjoy. Adult beverages are imbibed and new friends made. While they may not openly admit it, it embodies a lot of what Geer Week is about.

All of the engineers, along with their friends from other faculties, board a bus and head out to a bar in a small town. The goal is to drink it dry, depriving the other patrons and the community of alcohol. So it combines the first big part of Geer Week, camaraderie, with the second biggest part, open competition.

"We don't know where we're going. Only two people that are planning the event actually know the name of the town we're going

to," says Engineering Physics Geer Week coordinator David Drieger.

The official part of Geer Week commences with an actual opening ceremony, followed by a tug-of-war tournament between the 10 Engineering departments. Six hours after the opening event, teams head over to RATT to wrap up the opening day by embarking on a city-wide scavenger hunt.

"The lists are usually gigantic," explained Joel Freund, the PR Rep for EngPhys. "They usually take up about three pages. It would be impossible to get all the items."

"You only get three hours to go out and get as many items as you can and return them," Drieger added, "there's always a huge variety of random things on the list, like garden gnomes and pictures of your team inside a sex shop."

The following day, competitors hop on the LRT and take the short trip to the Oil City Roadhouse in Downtown Edmonton for Drieger's favourite event, the Battle of the Bands.

"Some of the bands are actually really good, so you get some great music and it's a great time for us," explained Drieger. "It's the most exciting event. Each faculty has their own band and a dance troupe that goes up and dances to the songs. The band's set has to be half composed of theme-related songs."

Each team picks a defining theme for their performances at events, mainly for Battle of the Bands and Movie Night. EngPhys' winning theme last year was The Bohr Identity; a play on words combining Danish physicist Neils Bohr and the Robert Ludlum novel, *The Bourne Identity*.

"For Battle of the Bands (this year), one of our themed songs is 'Sunglasses at Night' by Corey Hart. Because of Horatio on *CSI: Miami* and his sunglasses," Drieger explained.

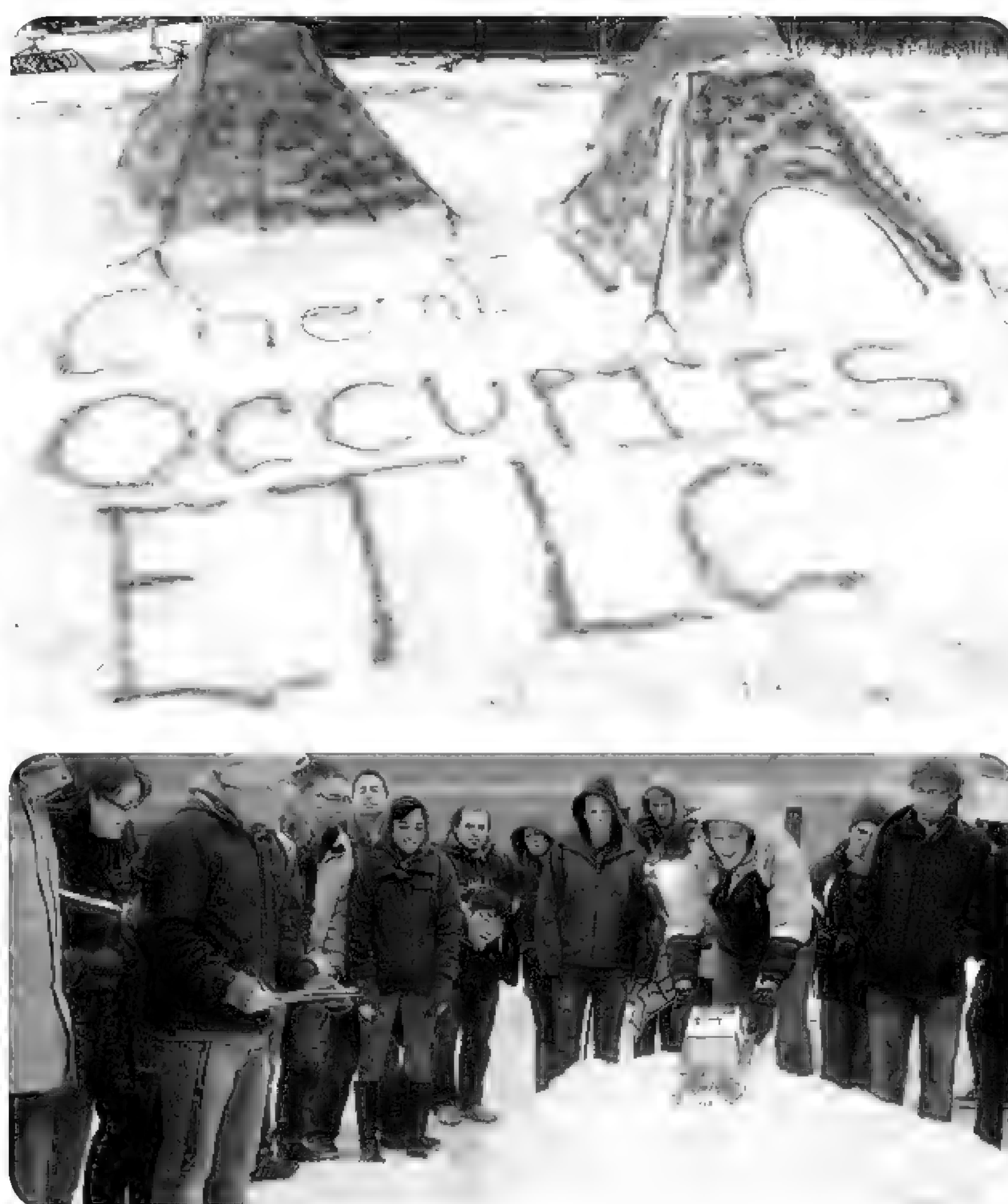
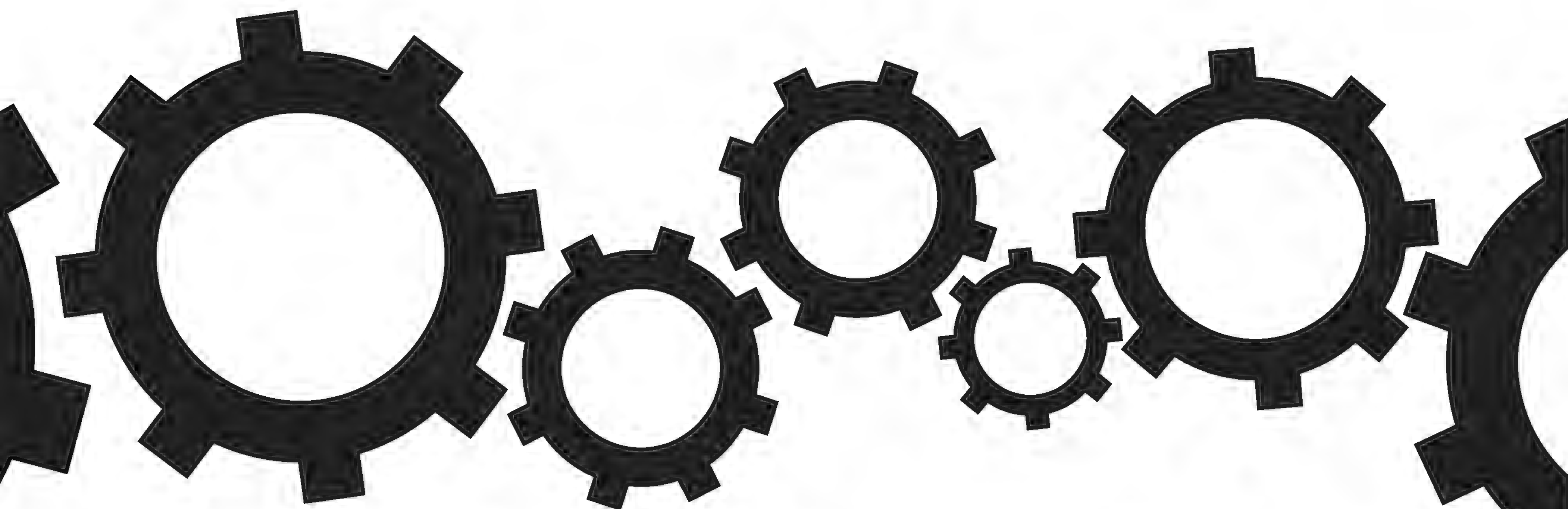
But in typical Geer Week fashion, not everything is as it first appears. While every team is trying to stick with their theme while wow-ing the judges, impressive splits or teamwork aren't the only way teams rack up points.

"If a band is not so good, they make up for it by buying the judges' drinks," says Kelsey Kennedy-Leblanc, gesturing toward numerous empty glasses and bottles scattered on the table. "And there is a lot of bribery going on tonight."

Kennedy-LeBlanc is the Associate Vice-President (Geer Week) for the Engineering Students' Society. The faculty association takes the week so seriously they appoint one young engineer to oversee the competition, doing everything from setting up venues to lining up judges for events.

Each venue needs to be booked well in advance of the competition, and all of the equipment and materials needed have to be in place before the event starts. The ESS is also required to obtain liability insurance in the event anything goes seriously wrong during Geer Week.

And for Kennedy-LeBlanc, judging events like the battle of the bands is just as much part of the job as organizing the evening. Each engineering discipline enters a band and a dance troupe. Every band is allowed to play a 20-minute set, and each band is judged on their stage presence and their set list. It's a long night, but everyone has a good time, and the judges get their fair



share of "inducements."

The battle of the bands isn't the last thing on the docket. The movie night is the final evening competition event of Geer Week. Students of all disciplines pile into a large lecture theatre in ETLC to enjoy short films prepared by each engineering club.

The productions are low-budget, but the fun lies in the lighthearted jokes directed at other clubs and at the faculty itself. Each film usually parodies a recent popular movie or TV series, and they are generally well-received as long as there is gratuitous slapstick, toilet and sexual humor in conjunction with a minimum attempt at a plot. There is almost always a film that is impossible to follow due to unintelligible dialogue. These films receive the loudest cheers when they finally end or are mercifully stopped by an ESS representative.

The different department themes flow through from battle of the bands to the movie night competitions. In their last winning year, EngPhys placed fourth in this competition. Their last movie night win was three years ago, where 'District P,' a spoof of *District 9*, swept audiences off their feet. EngPhys would come a close second this year to a surprising winner, the First Years.

Just as important as competing in Geer Week are the stunts and pranks each teams pull on other departments. As well as some of which are able to score the teams Spirit Points. When asked about what was up the EngPhys team was planning this year, Drieger gets up and shuts the door to protect the confidential nature of the schemes.

"Since our theme is CSPsy, we're going to set up a crime scene somewhere," Drieger

explains. "We originally wanted to block off a pedway, but we can't due to fire hazards. We'll probably just have someone who looks like they've been shot alongside crime scene tape, and try to make it look pretty official."

"As for pranks, we're planning to focus on the Mechanical Engineers; we want to use an air compressor to blow condoms under their office door in the middle of the night. That's all we have planned for now, but we'll probably do a lot of spur-of-the-moment things."

The competitive nature of Geer Week also allows teams to steal points from their teams.

"It's called capturing," says Freund. "Either the PR rep, which is me, or the President ... have to show up for every event, or EngPhys loses a point. Any member of any other Engineering faculty can capture us if we don't have another member of EngPhys with us. So, if (the President) or I are alone, anyone can capture us and keep us from the event."

This past week saw the EngPhys team focused on keeping their winning title for another year with some extra responsibilities. As per usual in Geer Week tradition, the previous year's winners are tasked with introducing the First Year Engineers (FYE) to the game and helping them execute some of the tasks that take extra preparation.

"The First Year Engineers are always at a bit of a disadvantage," explains Drieger. "None of them really know what's going on. Also, by helping them, we share the penalties they get. So we have to make sure that they're organized with their events."

And while each team has been sweating through the poster challenges, dance competitions and their turn at screen acting, the last

competition forces them to apply classroom learning to a real-world problem. Well, as real-world as getting beer down a hill on a ski can reasonably assumed to be.

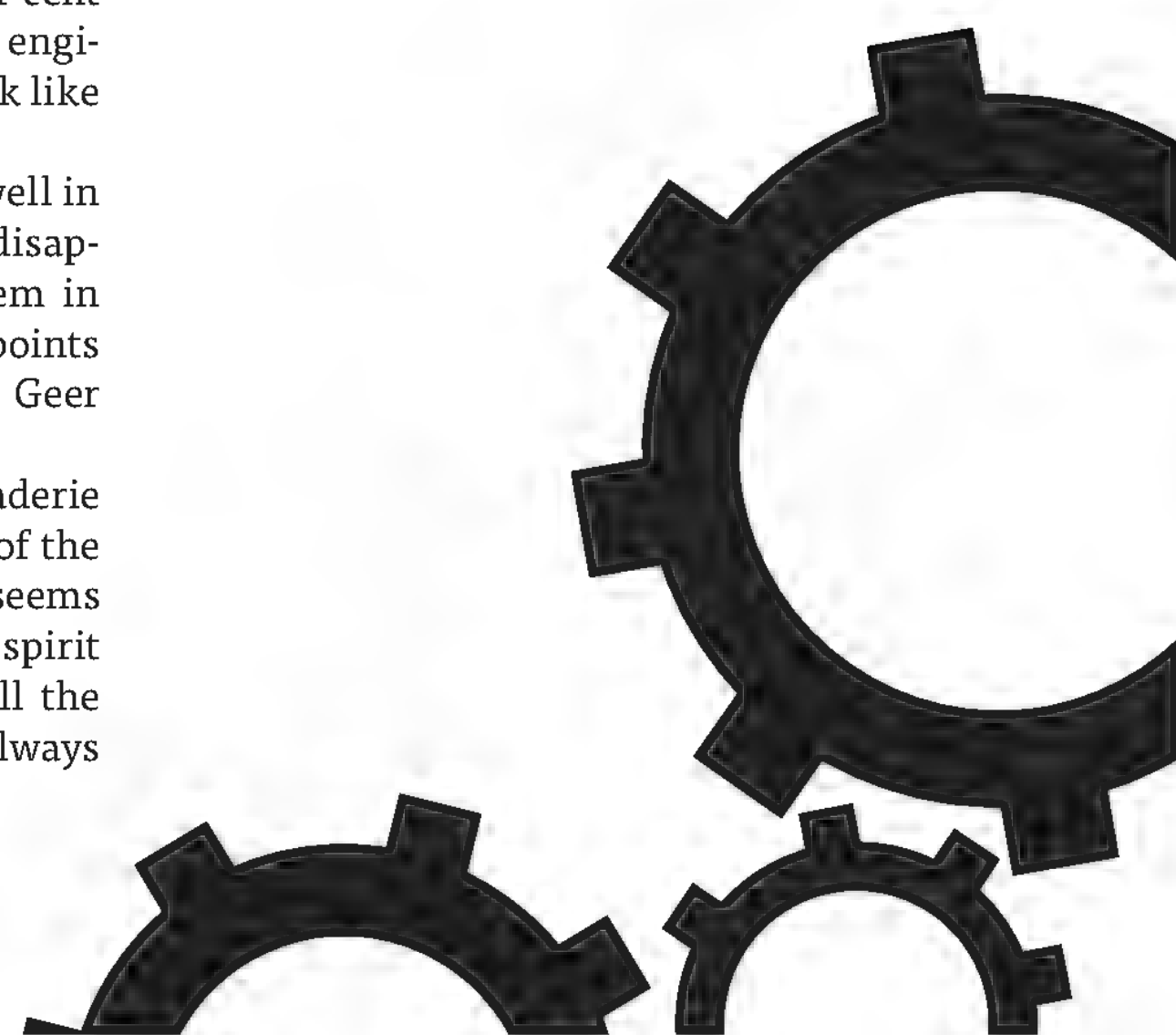
The challenge is put forward by Kennedy-LeBlanc, who is having a hypothetical party at his house. Teams have to get "beverages" from the liquor store at the top of the hill down to his house. The beverage has to slide down a hill, jump a ramp and land, all without shaking up the beverage inside.

Judges from the Association of Professional Engineers, Geologists, and Geophysicists of Alberta join other students as they mark the groups on professionalism, interesting design and presentation skills. This is engineering after all, and these skills will count in the future.

Some of the designs are ridiculous, such as that of the first year engineers, who built a massive contraption out of a cardboard box and that even they admit is "75 per cent string." Others, such as the electrical engineers Thunderbirds-inspired ski/jet look like they might be able to take off.

Engineering Physics wouldn't do as well in the design competition, coming in a disappointing fourth. That would leave them in second place for the week, a mere 10 points back from Civil Engineering for the Geer Week title.

But in the end, it's all about camaraderie and a week to forget about the rigours of the school year. Who wins and who loses seems secondary to getting together in the spirit of competition. At least, that's what all the teams that lost tell themselves; there's always next year.



Arts & Culture

Arts & Culture Editor

Madeline Smith

Phone

780.492.7052

Email

arts@gateway.ualberta.ca

Volunteer

A&C meetings Wednesdays at 4 p.m. in 3-04 SUB.

social intercourse

COMPILED BY Alana Willerton

"FOREVER DEVOTED TO BOSTON PIZZA"

Tip of the Iceberg 2012

Presented by Edmonton Next Gen
Sunday, Jan. 29 from 12 p.m. – 10 p.m.
Sir Winston Churchill Square
Free

In an effort to celebrate all that is good in both winter and music, Edmonton Next Gen, a department of the City of Edmonton, has arranged a day's worth of musical performances for the Tip of the Iceberg festival being held in the heart of downtown Edmonton. Shielded from the cold by heated tents, the festival is spotlighting a dozen of Edmonton's local talents, with artists such as Jom Comyn, Jeff Stuart & the Hearts, Jessica Jalbert and more on the set list. The festival, put together with the help of Edmonton record label Old Ugly, attempts to promote the idea of winter being a shared, community experience with the help of the local music scene.

Topsy-Turvy

Presented by Edmonton Opera
Written and directed by Mike Leigh
Starring Jim Broadbent, Allan Corduner and Dexter Fletcher
Monday, Jan. 30 at 6:40 p.m.
Garneau Theatre (8712 109 St.)
\$8 admission

Presented by the Edmonton Opera, the film *Topsy-Turvy* is the story of the famed relationship between composer Arthur Sullivan and librettist W.S. Gilbert. The masterful duo collaborated on 14 comic operas in the 19th century, one their most famous shows being *The Mikado*, a comedic love opera set in Japan. The opera was so popular that it has become one of the most frequently played musical theatre pieces in history. This exclusive screening of *Topsy-Turvy* arrives just in time to prepare us for the Edmonton Opera's own interpretation of *The Mikado*, set to take the stage in February.

Blind Date

Created and performed by Rebecca Northan
Runs Saturday, Jan. 28 – Sunday, Feb. 19
at 7:30 p.m.
Citadel Theatre (9828 101 Ave.)
Starting at \$51.45 at citadeltheatre.com

Before heading out to catch a performance of *Blind Date*, prepare yourself: You may have just set out for the blind date of a lifetime. At every show, one lucky man in the audience will be selected to go on stage and be the blind date of Mimi, played by the show's creator Rebecca Northan. With a completely different and improvised performance each time, *Blind Date* manages to examine the bizarre rituals of dating and the emotions of love, all while leaving the audience with a good laugh.

Continuity in Disgrace

Created by Griffith Aaron Baker
Curated by Terrena Boss
Runs Thursday, Jan. 29 – Saturday, Feb. 25
Harcourt House Gallery (10215 112 St.)

One of the only public galleries and artist-run centres in Edmonton, Harcourt House Gallery is known for playing host to contemporary art from both locally and nationally renowned artists. The latest exhibit to hit the gallery, *Continuity in Disgrace*, uses manmade materials to create an awareness of our poor physical relationship to them. The installation, created by Griffith Aaron Baker, is a set of 12 sculptures made from compact discs, from tiny pieces to those mammoth in size.

Transcending the '90s boy band image

Sixteen years after their hit "MMMBop," the Hanson brothers and their teenybopper fans have grown up

MUSIC PREVIEW

Hanson

WHEN ▶ Thursday, Jan. 27 at 7:30 p.m.
WHERE ▶ Festival Place (100 Festival Way, Sherwood Park)
HOW MUCH ▶ \$43.25 at ticketmaster.ca

Katherine Speur

ARTS & CULTURE STAFF ■ @KATHERINESPEUR

Although their days in the pages of *Tiger Beat* are long over, the boy band brothers of Hanson haven't disappeared yet. Their long blonde locks may have been trimmed to more modest lengths, but the brothers still haven't faded away from the hearts of their fans. Countless girls still swoon for the oh-so-adorable Hanson brothers, and now that Taylor, Isaac and Zac Hanson are returning for a brand new tour, 2012 is a year for Hanson fans all over the world to rejoice.

The Hanson brothers have been playing music together since the early '90s, but the group's career took off in 1997 with the release of the album *Middle of Nowhere*, including the inescapable hit single "MMMBop." Surprisingly, more than a decade later, vocalist and keyboardist Taylor claims he and his brothers aren't sick of the song quite yet.

"You want to play things that people know, and the advantage that we have is having a really devout group of fans," he says. "Art is new to me each day — that's what makes making music great. If you go on autopilot, it doesn't matter how many times you play your song, it could be boring.

But in reverse, if you engage every time, then you can find a way to make it exciting."

Hanson concerts bring back memories of the golden age of puppy love, walkmen and rollerblades for those who listened to the group in their heyday. But for a younger generation, a Hanson concert is something completely new. The group's audience now ranges from middle-aged women to wide-eyed young children, and the brothers try to take everyone into consideration when performing.

"I think a huge part of (being excited to play) is actually realizing that somebody has only heard (a song) once," Taylor says. "That person in the audience could be the 10-year-old that got taken to their first concert, or maybe a fan that's been around for a long time but has never gotten to see us, and then they've waited for the moment to see that song that they grew up with."

The brothers' wholesome image and kind-hearted attitude is a big part of their stage presence, but the brothers also take this philosophy beyond their music. With their "Take the Walk" campaign, the brothers raise money and awareness for HIV/AIDS research and prevention in Africa, an effort made easier through their close connection with their fanbase over the years.

"For years we were interested in talking about causes," Taylor says. "We would tell fans to send food to food banks instead of sending us gifts and things like that just because oftentimes you can't keep everything.

"When we were making our fourth record *The Walk*, we were kind of called to take a trip to Africa for a variety of different

reasons," he explains of the group's passion for the HIV crisis in Africa. "Some friends of ours were working at a hospital there and what we were struck by was the fact that HIV, AIDS and the extreme poverty situation in that continent is so linked to a lot of really tangible needs."

The Hanson brothers soon discovered that having such a large and loving group of fans made it easy to promote their cause and ask for donations. With their organization, they specifically focused on simple necessities like clean water, shoes and inexpensive medicine.

"We started hosting these one mile walks — that one-mile walk and walking barefoot is a way to connect with poverty," Taylor says. "We've used that message as a vehicle and had thousands and thousands of people walk."

Hanson's commitment to their fans, charitable campaign efforts and music has earned them a place in music history. After world tours, Grammy nominations and throngs of adoring '90s fangirls, these chart-topping teenyboppers have grown into a new era of maturity, with the same energetic attitude they've become known for.

"It's very humbling to be able to have people that really, genuinely feel connected with you. But I think, you get into this because of the actual work, because of the making of music. The whole idea of adoration and fans and stuff, that's kind of a bonus," Taylor says.

"That can't be something you hang your hat on too much because that kind of thing can come and go. I will say this: we are very humbled by the lasting connection we've had with a lot of people. I think you have to hold that very carefully and keep doing the things that you think are important."





Beware the tube's tall tales



Kory Orban
A&C COMMENTARY

For decades, the biggest liar in your house has likely been your TV, with an increasingly ridiculous stream of scripted “reality shows” and questionable news reports beamed directly into your eyeballs 24 hours per day. And it’s only getting worse — not only is the quality of television programming increasingly questionable, but the cable channels themselves are in a downward spiral of unreliability. Stated plainly, the logos for the channels no longer match the shows they broadcast.

The so-called Learning Channel (TLC) airs a television program called *My Big Fat Gypsy Wedding* where each week the viewer gets an insider’s look into a different gypsy family’s nuptials. We all know the viewing public loves weddings and all things big and fat, so it would follow that combining these two incredibly

popular adjectives would create a truly transcendent hour-long television experience. But that doesn’t explain why it’s on a channel that’s ostensibly about learning.

While the program claims to be educating viewers about the nomadic people’s culture, in the end it’s really just another opportunity to gawk at spectacle of a totally over-the-top wedding. And TLC is a repeat offender. Amongst their other supposedly educational offerings are shows like *The Little Couple*, which is supposed to provide insight into life as a little person, but only demonstrates how overwhelmingly monotonous marriage can be for anyone, regardless of their placement on the vertical spectrum.

And broadcasting gypsy reality TV and marriage counselling is just the tip of this unfortunate iceberg. From MTV and Much Music not actually showing many music videos anymore to Fox News not really ever showing news, the list goes on and on.

But aren’t the network executives simply yielding to viewer demand? If this is what the people want, it’s what

they ought to get. But cable channels don’t have to taunt us with their tiny yet enormously inaccurate logos. Gone are the days when false advertising was reserved for the commercials and not entire networks.

Not all is lost: some channels remain relatively faithful to their brand names. Notwithstanding a few shows, Discovery still offers some excellent science programming, and Comedy is still mostly funny. Even so, these channels have the benefit of exceptionally vague names. Discovery and Comedy are a lot more ambiguous than History and Learning.

Don’t fret, there’s still room for the History Channel, MTV and the rest of the endless televised liars to improve. All that needs to be added are a few amendments to their misleading names. The History Channel can be renamed the History and Conspiracy Theories Channel, Much Music becomes Not That Much Music Anymore, and Fox News becomes Fox Not Really News. But until some changes are made, your TV will continue to be a liar. Make sure to keep an eye on it — pun intended.

ALBUM REVIEW



Skrillex *Bangarang EP*

Atlantic Records
skrillex.com

Carole Yue
ARTS & CULTURE STAFF

Those who have had the Skrillex experience before will notice that *Bangarang* is a deviation from his signature glitch-dubstep offerings. Like many artists who have come into their own, the opportunity to expand and experiment is seductive, and any artist worth their salt will abandon their comfort zone for artistic growth.

Bangarang isn’t so much of a disappointment as it is a challenge to take in. The EP is an experimental

venture, which explains the earnest variation among tracks. Regardless of the technical nuances between songs, let it not be said that Mr. Skrillex has lost his ability to elicit crazy dance moves. Aside from “Summit,” which pairs soft synth with Ellie Goulding’s haunting vocals, *Bangarang*’s tracks are unapologetic head-bangers, with aggressive manipulations, heavy drops and a unifying funky beat. “Kyoto” and title track “Bangarang”

lead the pack in kinetic potential, with Sirah’s hip-hop vocals making them extra addictive.

With a harder edge, the track “The Devil’s Den” implies cacophony, and it delivers. A collaboration with EDM heavyweight Wolfgang Gartner, the track is essentially an expansive turntable battle between him and Skrillex, oscillating between two very distinct styles. It lacks fluidity, but the raw jaggedness of the arrangement ultimately makes for a very danceable beat.

In the end, *Bangarang* is an eclectic buffet. While it may be hard to stomach at first, you can certainly appreciate the amount of artistic license and liberty that’s been wielded in its name. With this EP, Skrillex has demonstrated his ability to not only remix but to create powerful and provocative original content as well.

fashion streeters

COMPILED AND PHOTOGRAPHED BY **Julianne Damer**



GATEWAY: Describe what you’re wearing.

ALEX: I’m wearing my warmest boots from Town Shoes and black leggings from Aritzia. The shirt is from a thrift store in Banff and this is a TNA sweater that I found in the lost and found.

GATEWAY: What’s your favourite thing you have on?

ALEX: My dress, because it goes with everything. It’s a good summer, winter, and spring dress. It also kind of reminds me of my grandmother’s couch.



Check out thegatewayonline.ca/fashionstreeters for more photos.

The Low Anthem embraces honesty over hype

Despite their rising popularity, the folk-pop group is planning a temporary hiatus to explore new creative directions

MUSIC PREVIEW

The Low Anthem

WITH > City & Colour

WHEN > Wednesday, Jan. 25 and
Thursday, Jan. 26 at 8 p.m.

WHERE > Jubilee Auditorium
(11455 87 Ave.)

HOW MUCH > \$44.50 at ticketmaster.ca

Tyler Hein

ARTS & CULTURE STAFF

With a haunting, melancholy sound and a series of tour dates with Canadian music royalty City & Colour, the members of The Low Anthem seem to be on their way to becoming the next big thing in indie music — if that's what they want. But for the time being, it seems that not even founding member Jeff Prystowsky knows what the future holds for the band.

"When we come back on the road we will have a completely new show. We kind of settled into a certain sound. We want to change that up: have (The Low Anthem) get into electric, pedals, the tightness of louder music. A lot more rock, dirty house blues and garage rock."

JEFF PRYSTOWSKY
THE LOW ANTHEM

The five-piece group from Providence, Rhode Island, have amassed a repertoire of tender, otherworldly songs since they came together in 2006. After the enormous critical response to the re-release of their third album *Oh My God, Charlie Darwin* in 2009, the group graduated from small local shows to playing with a who's who of top acts. But despite the success of *Charlie Darwin* and their follow-up *Smart Flesh* in 2011, The Low Anthem announced they would be on hiatus after their current tour. While it seems like an unusual move, Prystowsky isn't worried about losing the group's current

momentum — the break is necessary, he says, to allow the band to continue to explore new musical ideas.

"We're working on a new sound ... when we come back on the road we will have a completely new show," he says. "We kind of settled into a certain sound. We want to change that up: have (The Low Anthem) get into electric, pedals, the tightness of louder music. A lot more rock, dirty house blues and garage rock."

The group has a history of experimenting with different musical styles, recording an album under the name Snake Wagon to escape the "restrained, minimalist" sound they originally embodied. The resulting record, *Have Fun With Snake Wagon*, showcases their focus on staying on their toes in the music business.

"(Snake Wagon) was an idea we had since I was writing these kind of funny, satirical songs ... We just started to play them, and we found out that doing this was a really refreshing way for us to play music. That kind of spirit is what we needed. Snake Wagon allowed us to get back to why we started playing."

With their Snake Wagon side project, the members of The Low Anthem had a chance to let go and express themselves outside of fears or expectations about what they should sound like.

"I was at an Irish bar last night, and some old guys came in with their instruments and just started playing. And sure, they made little mistakes, but they didn't care, because it wasn't about that. They were just there to play some spiritual songs, and we can't do that with spiritual songs, but we can do that with Snake Wagon songs, because they are these hilarious songs that just allow everyone to relax and get back to that place where everyone can jam along and not take ourselves so seriously."

And while The Low Anthem's music matches the kind of sensitive, ethereal acoustic sound currently in demand in the indie world, Prystowsky maintains that they're ready to change, regardless of the popularity they've already managed to gain.

"We don't really care about (momentum)," he says. "Part of having something to say, I think, is challenging yourself ... We wanted to stay on our toes, turn a page. We've never been afraid to experiment, and this is just another one of those moments."





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ALBUM BATTLE

**Tara Oram****Revival**Open Road
taraoram.com

VS

Jessie Farrell**Love Letter**604 Records
jessiefarrell.com**Ryan Bromsgrove**

OPINION EDITOR • @RYAWESOME

The plan: pick two albums and pit them against each other in a gruesome deathmatch until a victor emerges.

Tara Oram's *Revival* and Jessie Farrell's *Love Letter* both have one thing immediately in common: they feature their respective artists hanging out in fields on the cover. As that's all I know of either of them going in to this album battle, this competition is going to be all about who can best capture the sentiment of "girls in softly-lit fields." It's going to be a tough challenge for these two lovers of the outdoors to prove who knows best how to frolic through rows of grain, but there can be only one winner — the other must be left forever in the dirt.

Girl most visually in a field

Tara Oram: This chick's crouching in front of rows of golden crops, but that very crouch jeopardizes her field-cred. In order to get a clear shot at this angle, the photograph had to be taken with her in a clearing, leaving us completely unsure as to the extent to which she is truly in a field.

Jessie Farrell: Flanked by wispy white flowers, Farrell is smack in the middle of her field. Her gaze is turned thoughtfully toward the ground as if she's watching her step in the tall grass in case snakes lurk nearby.

Advantage: Oram's confident stare is

undermined by her unwillingness to stand in the thick of the foliage. Farrell takes this round.

Most field-friendly packaging

Oram: Sporting a slick card CD case with no lyric booklet and minimal plastic, this baby would biodegrade faster than a barn owl sweeping from the sky to capture a meadow vole when left to the whims of a field's ecosystem.

Farrell: This traditional full-plastic CD case with glossy lyric insert is likely to shatter under the power of a farmer's combine harvester, leaving behind dangerous shards liable to slash friendly field-critters to bloody smithereens.

Advantage: For not threatening to maim innocent and probably very cute baby animals, Oram comes out on top.

Song most reminiscent of a field

Oram: "Way out there is a place where we'll never get caught / With our clothes hanging off an old corn stalk" from "The Cornfield Song" ends this round before it even began. The track very cunningly combines girls in fields with sex — an unbeatable team.

Farrell: Despite a truly field-tastic cover, *Love Letter* doesn't contain a single explicit reference to fields. The closest we get is an analogy between love and growing a seed into a tree in "Filthy Habits."

Advantage: For the mental image of rolling around naked in the middle of corn rows, Oram wins this one.

Most likely to have spent significant time in a field

Oram: Hailing from a town called Hare Bay in Newfoundland and Labrador, with a population of barely more than 1,000, Oram probably spent a hell of a lot of time walking through fields just trying to escape her hellish homeland.

Farrell: A native of Vancouver, Farrell might have seen a field once or twice on road trips, but she's probably spent as much time running from drug addicts on her city's mean streets as Oram spent desperately parting corn row after corn row looking for the way out of Hare Bay.

Advantage: Oram wins again so handily it's a wonder Farrell's even trying.

Verdict

Farrell's album takes great pains to convince you she's as at home in a field as a rabbit in its warren. But this battle has made it obvious that it's unlikely Farrell has ever even accidentally stepped in rabbit poop while navigating to the outhouse by starlight. For these reasons, Tara Oram takes the contest with so little effort it's like she rigged the whole thing. May she forever reign supreme as the Best Girl in a Softly-lit Field.

ALBUM REVIEW

**Lyrical Militant**
Prelude to RevolutionPBS Music
lyricalmilitant.com**Peggy Jankovic**

ARTS & CULTURE STAFF • @PEGGHETTI

"What's the point of rhyming if you ain't philosophizing?" muses Lyrical Militant on "Humanity's Tragedy." A political rapper and emcee from Winnipeg, this album is strongly anchored in a socially-conscious perspective and *Prelude to Revolution* is to be the first album in a politically-charged trilogy.

Lyrical Militant's strengths lie in his

flow, his ability to incorporate South-Asian influences into his tracks and his occasional cheekiness. In particular, on "Big Dreams," he first fantasizes about fat booty, fast cars and throwing money in the air. Then, with "Verse number one was satirical / So verse number two will be a lyrical miracle," the song shifts to a call

for action towards bringing the third world back from collapse.

However, *Prelude to Revolution* falters in its unsatisfying arc, or lack thereof entirely. Though the rapper has a strong, potent vision for this album, he fails to maintain his angle the whole way through. The more lighthearted tracks, while fun, distract from the main focus.

For an album with such socially relevant subject matter, it really doesn't have all that much substance. Out of the 16 tracks, only 10 are actual songs instead of interludes, and some of these are only fun jams irrelevant to political revolution. And when all is said and done, a concept album lacking cohesion really isn't much of a concept album at all.

ALBUM REVIEW

**The Darcys**
AjaArts & Crafts
thedarcys.com**Ramneek Tung**

ARTS & CULTURE WRITER

Originally released in 1977, Steely Dan's *Aja* is one of the group's most influential recordings. Walter Becker and Donald Fagen's complex musical arrangements reached their apex with this album, producing some of their most notable tracks like "Black Cow," and "Peg" — staples of classic rock radio stations. It was essentially the record that helped immortalize Steely Dan in the annals of rock 'n' roll.

Fast forward 35 years later and Toronto art-rock outfit The Darcys, perhaps influenced by lunacy, have taken on the task of reinterpreting this classic for their latest LP. Although it seems like an insurmountable task, considering the sheer complexity of the original compositions, The Darcys have managed to do the impossible: they've taken *Aja* out of the 1970s and transformed it into a 2012

musical masterpiece.

Steely Dan's magnum opus is no longer the jazz rock tour de force we all know. While the original sounds like the soundtrack to the porno-chic movement of its time, The Darcys re-envisioning of *Aja* make it into a neo-noir piece, with the band abolishing the original harmonies, instead opting for a minimal approach and making the melodies dark, brooding and apocalyptic.

Ardent devotees of classic rock might view this radical experimentation as blasphemous, but The Darcys have done a truly admirable job with their latest effort. They've managed to turn a hugely revered album into their own work, proving that the complex and clever lyrics of Steely Dan are timeless, whether presented as jazz rock or shoegaze.

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The only thing I really know is she got sex appeal."

-CRAZY TOWN, "BUTTERFLY" (2001)

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Changes won't send In Flames up in smoke

Guitarist/songwriter Björn Gelotte isn't worried about switching up the metal group's musical roles after losing a founding member

MUSIC PREVIEW

In Flames

WITH > Trivium, Veil of Maya and Kyng
 WHEN > Friday, Jan. 27 at 7 p.m.
 WHERE > Edmonton Event Centre (8882 170 St.)
 HOW MUCH > \$43.75 at ticketmaster.ca

Ravanne Lawday

ARTS & CULTURE STAFF • @RAVIIZAHARKO

The departure of a group member is bound to change the dynamic of any band, and not even heavy metal is immune to the void an absent musician leaves behind. After Swedish death metal outfit In Flames lost guitarist, keyboardist and songwriter Jesper Strömblad, the writing was left up to guitarist Björn Gelotte, who was at the creative helm for the group's latest, *Sounds of a Playground Fading*.

"There was no plan behind the album. I just did what I found interesting and challenging. But above all, I wanted to do something I'll remember. If I think of a riff and I wake up the next morning and it sticks, then it's good."

BJÖRN GELOTTE
GUITARIST, IN FLAMES

"After Jesper left, I started thinking about what I wanted to do," Gelotte says. "I started working on the material early, and realized that I came up with enough material to do an entire album."

Sounds of a Playground Fading pulls influence from Gelotte's past musical experience. The result is something that holds strong to the rest of the In Flames discography, despite Gelotte's transition to the band's sole songwriter.

"I grew up listening to hard rock and metal from the '80s and '90s, so that's something I'll always have with me. I also incorporated the experience we have with death metal, but there was no plan behind the album," he says. "I just did what I found interesting and challenging. But above all, I wanted to do something I'll remember. If I think of a riff and I wake up the next morning and it sticks, then it's good."

While work on the album seemed fluid and natural, Gelotte says the new songs still presented technical challenge for the band, something the group embraced. Despite enduring a change in the band's lineup, switching around writers and performers is just another day at the office for In Flames.

"The guys are phenomenal — they know exactly what they're doing," Gelotte says of his bandmates. "It was a really nice way of doing things, and I don't feel that we took a risk. It's just natural to do things this way. For example, I would just go down to my studio and record some riffs to see if the creative juices were flowing, and if they were, then I went with it. I never see our albums as a risk, since we're

always doing what we love and we always like to listen to our work."

Maintaining an organic work ethic while developing their sound keeps In Flames excited about making music and touring — even after more than two decades, 10 studio albums and countless years of touring. In all that time, Gelotte says, the band's sound hasn't really changed too much.

"Everybody interprets or understands albums differently," Gelotte says. "Everyone thought we made this big change in our playing and writing, when we really only changed the producer, and all of a sudden people thought we were this 'nu-metal' band that we weren't."



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Puck Bears up the powerplay for wins over 'Horns

HOCKEY ROUNDUP

Bears @ T-Birds

Friday and Saturday, Jan. 27-28
University of British Columbia

Atta Almasi
SPORTS STAFF

In a week filled with discussion of head and facial injuries in hockey after the injury of Edmonton Oilers forward Taylor Hall, the Golden Bears' hockey weekend saw a high stick to forward James Dobrowski, which came in Friday's game against the visiting Lethbridge Pronghorns.

The high stick resulted in a double minor penalty, in which the Green and Gold failed to score a goal. The Bears went into Friday's game ranked second-last in powerplay conversions in Canada West; however, they made the rest of their man advantages count, going two for five both nights against the 'Horns. The Bears came out on top against Lethbridge 5-0 on Friday and 6-1 on Saturday.

Head coach Stan Marple expressed his pride at the team's powerplay statistic this weekend, adding that the wins came from his team's ability to prevent the 'Horns from converting their opportunities with the man advantage.

"Our key to beating teams is playing five on five hockey. Obviously we'll take any powerplays we can get," Marple said. "Our powerplay was pretty good (Saturday). I think we got two again on the (powerplay), but in regards to not taking penalties I think our penalty kill



FELIX CHON

was pretty good — we didn't allow any powerplay goals this weekend."

The two wins against the 'Horns, coupled with a two game slide by the Saskatchewan Huskies on the road against the Manitoba Bisons, means that the Bears have moved into a tie for first place in the Can-West standings with the Huskies. They have also clinched one of the

league's six playoff spots going into two weekends of play away from home, starting in Vancouver against the UBC Thunderbirds this Friday.

The T-Birds are a team they defeated 4-1 twice back in November at Clare Drake Arena.

"I think UBC's going to be tough in Vancouver, but I feel that if we bring the type of pressure that we brought

this weekend (against) Lethbridge and we apply that same type of pressure and work ethic against UBC, I think we'll be successful," Marple said. "We've just got to take things one game at a time, especially with what happened across the league this weekend. We've just got to worry about ourselves and try to finish as high as we can in the standings

and hopefully get some home ice advantage in the playoffs."

Riding a six-game winning streak after a two-game sweep of the Calgary Dinos in Vancouver, UBC is the first road stop for the Bears before they travel to Regina to take on the Cougars the following weekend.

Playoffs will be hosted by the top team in Canada West.

Rookie Yao leads in digs in weekend wins over Heat for volley Bears

VOLLEYBALL ROUNDUP

Bears vs. Dinos

Friday, Jan. 27, 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 28, 6 p.m.
SCSC

Rebecca Medel
SPORTS EDITOR

For a rookie who hasn't seen much game time this season, Brendan Yao's starting position on the volleyball court last weekend was a key component in the Golden Bears' two wins over the UBC-Okanagan Heat.

Yao came on to replace Erik Mattson and the young libero pitched in 13 digs in Friday's 3-0 win over the Heat and the same amount in Saturday's 3-1 win. Before this weekend, Yao had made a few serves this season, but didn't see much game action other than in exhibition. But his digs both nights were the most for either team.

"For him to have his first opportunity on the floor starting he did very well. I think that helped us out this weekend," head coach Terry Danyluk said of the away wins.

Friday's match was a close one as the Bears won each set by only two points. The Heat have three wins this season, all at home, and Danyluk said he expected them to put up

a good fight as the majority of the team is made up of older players.

"I expected them to be harder to play in their gym. And both teams played kind of the same. We were efficient at times in the match and at other times in the match we allowed points and they did the same. We just managed to be tougher at the end."

Saturday's game was still quite a contest as the Heat won the first set and were only three points behind in the second. The Bears have struggled this season with keeping their level of game play consistent but Danyluk said they're ironing it out.

"We play a set and hit 60 per cent and then the next set hit five per cent. To be successful, you've got to be able to maintain a more consistent level. That's something that's been plaguing us a little bit off and on throughout the season," he said.

"We were really good at the end of each of the sets, but we had lapsed in the middle with the ball and I think that's something that we've been addressing and it's getting a little bit better, but it's still sticking its nose in every once in awhile."

Part of the inconsistency problem is that the Bears are a young team with nine rookies and four new starters, and there have been players in and out with injuries. But the

Bears have a respectable record at 10-4, and this weekend's match-up against the 9-5 Calgary Dinos will secure them a spot in playoffs if they win.

The Bears and Dinos met twice in the pre-season, each taking home a win, and this weekend will feature

strong competition for the third place Bears and fourth place Dinos Canada West teams. The Dinos are leading the pack in kills and assists with 741 and 681, respectively.

After facing Calgary, the Bears will only have two more weekends of regular season play. The top

seven teams head to playoffs and the Bears only need to win two more matches to secure a spot.

Friday's game at 7:30 p.m. is a free entry for students, sponsored by Hudsons. Saturday's game is at 6 p.m. Both are at the Saville Community Sports Centre.

MEN'S AND WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL TOP THREE

MEN



14-0

EIGHT STRAIGHT-SET GAMES



13-1

FOUR STRAIGHT-SET GAMES



10-4

THREE STRAIGHT-SET GAMES

WOMEN



13-1

NINE STRAIGHT-SET GAMES



12-4

SIX STRAIGHT-SET GAMES



10-4

SIX STRAIGHT-SET GAMES



MATT HIRI

Athletes hit best times at U of A track and field invitational

TRACK AND FIELD ROUNDUP

Bears and Pandas @ McGill

Friday and Saturday, Jan. 27-28
McGill University

Rebecca Medel
SPORTS EDITOR

The Butterdome was crowded last weekend with the top athletes in Canada West track and field all striving to reach their personal bests at the Golden Bears Open.

The Pandas fared decently, winning first-place titles in the women's 4x200 metre relay and the 4x800 metre relay. Courtney Wilkes also took first with a 12.09 metre triple jump. The Pandas are one of the country's top-ten teams at number six.

On the Bears' side, Adam Baptie competed in his first pentathlon and had a personal best in the long jump at 6.97 metres. Benjamin Williams was second in the 60 metre dash with a time of 6.99 seconds. The Bears were second in the 4x200 metre relay and Adam Osborne was second in pole vault at 4.21 metres.

Head coach Georgette Reed said the team has some phenomenal athletes including Janell Khan and Leah Walkeden who placed fourth and eighth in the women's 60 metre dash.

"We also have a third-year who just kind of does it all, Debbie Trang. She's the ultimate volunteer, the ultimate team person and she's getting to the point now where she's going to end up making our Canada West team and probably our CIS (national) team with her sprinting results because she's just getting so fast. She broke eight seconds for the first time."

Trang clocked 7.99 seconds in the 60 metre dash semi-finals and Reed said if she goes to the CanWest finals she will definitely make an impact.

"We're really proud of the people that came out and competed this weekend and are really happy with the developmental results and the results of not only our top athletes and where they're going, but for the athletes

that have stuck with the program and are building and are now really starting to show promise and are definitely going to be a factor when it comes to the conference championships in February," Reed said.

A bit of a disappointment for the team was that they were missing a couple top competitors due to illness, Reed explained.

"Some of our top guys like Stephen McPhee and Mitchell Home were supposed to compete this weekend and it ended up that Mitchell had the flu really bad and Stephen ended up with a foot problem and his doctors advised him not to compete."

In the Jan. 8 dual meet with the University of Calgary, both McPhee and Home were on the second-place team in the 4x200 metre relay. Home also snatched first-place in the 300 metre dash.

Most of the athletes have at least two more competitions before selections are made for the CanWest finals in Saskatoon on Feb. 24. The coaches will evaluate each performance and decide from there who will best represent the Bears and Pandas. The qualifying criteria includes being in the top 12 or 13 in the conference. Reed has confidence in her team and said that while some of the other universities came up stronger in only the track events or the field events, the Bears and Pandas do well at both.

"We're kind of one of those teams that's finding that we're really well rounded. We've got some strength on the track, in the sprints, in the middle distance and in distance. We've got some strength in the field events as far as the jumps and pole vault."

Lindsey Bergevin wasn't competing last weekend, but is one of the top pole vaulters and high jumpers in CanWest.

"She jumped 3.90 (metres) in the women's pole vault and is probably one of the top competitors in the CIS right now. She's also our school record holder in the high jump at 1.81 (metres) so she should be a double threat for performances and medals at CIS this year."

This weekend, part of the team will travel to McGill University to take part in the McGill Invitational, while others will be at the Sled Dog meet at the University of Saskatchewan.

sports shorts

COMPILED BY **Rebecca Medel**

HOCKEY PANDAS SPLIT WEEKEND

In a season where 11 of 20 matches have ended in either a shootout or overtime, the puck Pandas split last weekend with a 3-2 loss in shootout on Friday in Lethbridge, but returned the favour to the 'Horns the next night with a 2-1 shootout win.

Andrea Boras and Alison Campbell had Friday's goals, both in the first period, and the team was able to hold off the Pronghorns until

their two goals found the net late in the third.

Saturday's win saw Lindsay Cunningham score in the second, Janelle Malcolm in the third and Sarah Hilworth's goal won the game in the shootout.

The Pandas are in third spot in Canada West with a 10-3-7 record and host the University of British Columbia Thunderbirds this weekend.

STRONG EFFORT FOR VOLLEY PANDAS

The volleyball Pandas are tied for fourth spot in Canada West with the Manitoba Bisons at 9-5 after a win and a loss to the UBC-Okanagan

heat last weekend.

Friday was a good start to the weekend with a 3-1 win for the Pandas, with Alena Omelchenko leading her team with 14 kills while Erin Walsh had 26 digs. The Pandas started the match a bit slow but were able to win the final three sets.

Omelchenko's 13 kills and Walsh's 23 digs in Saturday's game were not enough to ward off the Heat, who reversed Friday's game and won the last three sets themselves. Walsh leads Canada West with 233 digs this season.

The Pandas host the University of Calgary Dinos this weekend.

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Pandas haul in biggest wins of season on home court

BASKETBALL PREVIEW

Pandas @ Dinos

Friday and Saturday, Jan. 27-28
University of Calgary

Jonathan Faerber
SPORTS WRITER

With 11 wins and only three losses this season, the Pandas basketball team have every reason to be confident about this weekend's match-up against provincial rivals, the University of Calgary Dinos, but they certainly are not taking the games for granted.

Last weekend's 74-39 and 84-40 wins against Thompson Rivers University and UBC-Okanagan looked like a warm-up for the next week, but in reality the stats were a bit surprising, especially against the TRU Wolfpack on Friday. Diane Schuetz leads the conference in points for the Wolfpack.

The Pandas managed to build a huge lead in the first quarter on Friday when they scored 14 unanswered points after being tied at five. The Wolfpack began scoring again in the second quarter, but were stuck playing catchup until the final whistle.

"We have great respect for Thompson Rivers. They're a really

quality team, better than their record, and they've given every one of the best teams in our conference really good runs so we were certainly threatened and feeling worried about that game," said head coach Scott Edwards. "We certainly didn't expect 14-0 runs end of quarter, but we did expect that we were going to compete and hold teams to a low-scoring number."

The two wins are the Pandas' biggest of the season at 35 and 44 points. The game against UBC-O Heat was particularly lopsided as the Pandas limited the chances for the Heat and frequently forced them to race the shot clock. Pandas guard Nicole Clarke led the scoring of the night at 20 points, with forwards Saskia Van Ginhoven and Aneka Bakker also putting in 14 and 11 points, respectively.

Post Kelly Lyons, who combined for 14 points over the weekend, gave credit to the Pandas' defensive display for the wins.

"When we started the game we weren't focusing on offence but we were focusing on defence. We decided to keep our goals defensive this year and work on that."

Although they remain second in Canada West, the win brings the Pandas to 11-3 overall, two spots above the Dinos, who are 9-5. The two games this weekend could give Calgary the chance to pull level in

the standings.

Edwards pointed out that there is still work to do before playing Calgary.

"There's a lot of things we need to improve on. I thought we did some nice things (against UBC-O) to start on that path — you know, even though we had a win of 40 tonight we can still play better defensively, we can still rotate better, we can still block out a bit better. So some things we'll work on in practice."

"Often simply we turn our ball over way too much — we had 23 tonight and a whole bunch yesterday too," Edwards added.

Guard Katie Arbuthnot, who led the team in points against TRU, said that the game against the Dinos could go either way.

"Anybody could step up for us any night and the same with them too. They have a couple new girls and they have some older players — the veterans are always going to be the ones to look out for so we just have to make sure we're taking care of them and taking care of the other players."

Edwards, however, remains cautiously upbeat. "I felt like we were just trying to get ready for things that are bigger than this and so we needed to find a way to play 40 solid minutes and I think we did today."

The Pandas head to Calgary this weekend to take on the Dinos.



MATT HIRSH

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TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7

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MATT HIRI

Hoop Bears look for rare road win as they travel to Calgary this weekend

BASKETBALL PREVIEW

Bears @ Dinos

Friday and Saturday, Jan. 27-28
University of Calgary

Andrew Jeffrey
SPORTS STAFF • @ANDREW_JEFFREY

There's less than a month of play before playoffs start for the Golden Bears basketball team, which means recent improvements to their play are coming at just the right time.

The University of Alberta left the Saville Saturday night with their now four-game winning streak still intact and improved to first place in the Prairie division of the Canada West conference. The Thompson Rivers University Wolf Pack gave them some trouble in a 77-69 win for the U of A on Friday night, but the Bears recovered on Saturday with a dominating 87-54 victory over the UBC-Okanagan Heat.

Head Coach Greg Francis saw those two games as an opportunity for the Bears to refocus and improve themselves, putting them on the right track to finish strong with a good playoff position.

"It's just about us right now, there's some things that we can get better at," Francis explained. "We have to be prepared for every team, but right now — especially this time of season — I think everybody's focusing on the details on the offensive and defensive end that we can clean up. Every practice and every game, that's what we need to do."

Their improvement was certainly

evident even just in the scope of last weekend. The Bears' starters got off to a shaky start Friday night against TRU that left the team in a weaker position than they should have been in against the 5-9 Wolf Pack, but they bounced back Saturday night against the Heat. Led by guard Jordan Baker who's second in scoring and rebounding in CanWest, the Bears controlled the ball on offence for much of the game and didn't allow UBC-O to gain any momentum against what has been a consistently strong defence all season.

"We're going to have to play an all-around defensive game and I think that's what our team is made for. If the offence can show up and play a good game, then that's going to happen."

GREG FRANCIS
BEARS HEAD COACH

"We started off with a great first half with our defence and it has stayed at a half-decent level. But our offence is getting better. We're starting to click, we're starting to shoot better, field goal percentage (is better) and I think we needed that. Our defence was a little ahead of our offence but our offence has caught up."

At first glance, it would seem that next weekend's games would continue this trend of self-focus against weaker teams as the Bears visit the University of Calgary. The Dinos are sitting at a 4-10 record that's

left them battling for a playoff spot. However, the U of C has had the unfortunate luck to lose key players to injuries and have shown themselves to be a talented team despite their losing record. Add these two teams' usual hotly contested rivalry and it's easy to see why Francis is anticipating an intense pair of games next weekend.

"Up front they're as talented as anybody to defend," Francis said. "We're going to have a play an all-around defensive game and I think that's what our team is made for. If the offence can show up and play a good game, then that's going to happen."

If that happens for the Bears, Francis sees an opportunity to boost the team's position with a couple of rare road wins. While the Bears have been undefeated against CanWest teams at home all season, they've struggled on the road with a 2-4 record this season.

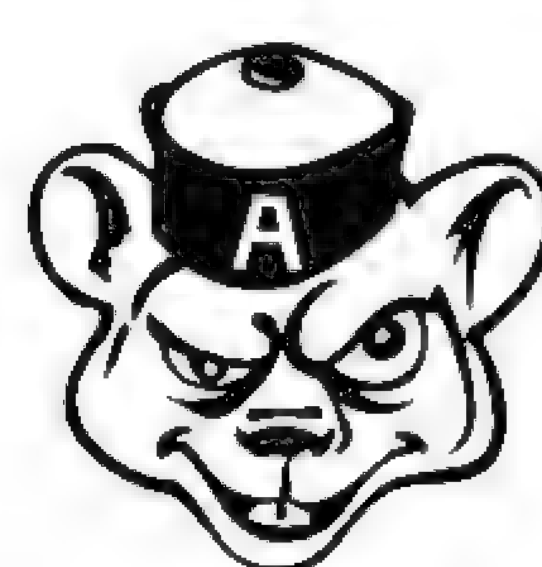
"We haven't had a great road win yet and if we can get a win or two in Calgary next weekend then I think it would be our most significant road win to date," Francis said.

The Golden Bears have made strides to improve their offence with a characteristically strong showing at home these past few weekends. If they can prove that re-invigorated offence is for real in Calgary next week, they could cement themselves as the team to beat in the Prairie division, just in time for playoffs.

The Bears have six regular season games left with final home games on Feb. 10-11 against the Brandon Bobcats. The top four Prairie and top three Pacific division teams continue on to playoffs.

ticket giveaway

WHICH BEARS AND PANDAS TEAMS HAD DOUBLE WINS LAST WEEKEND?



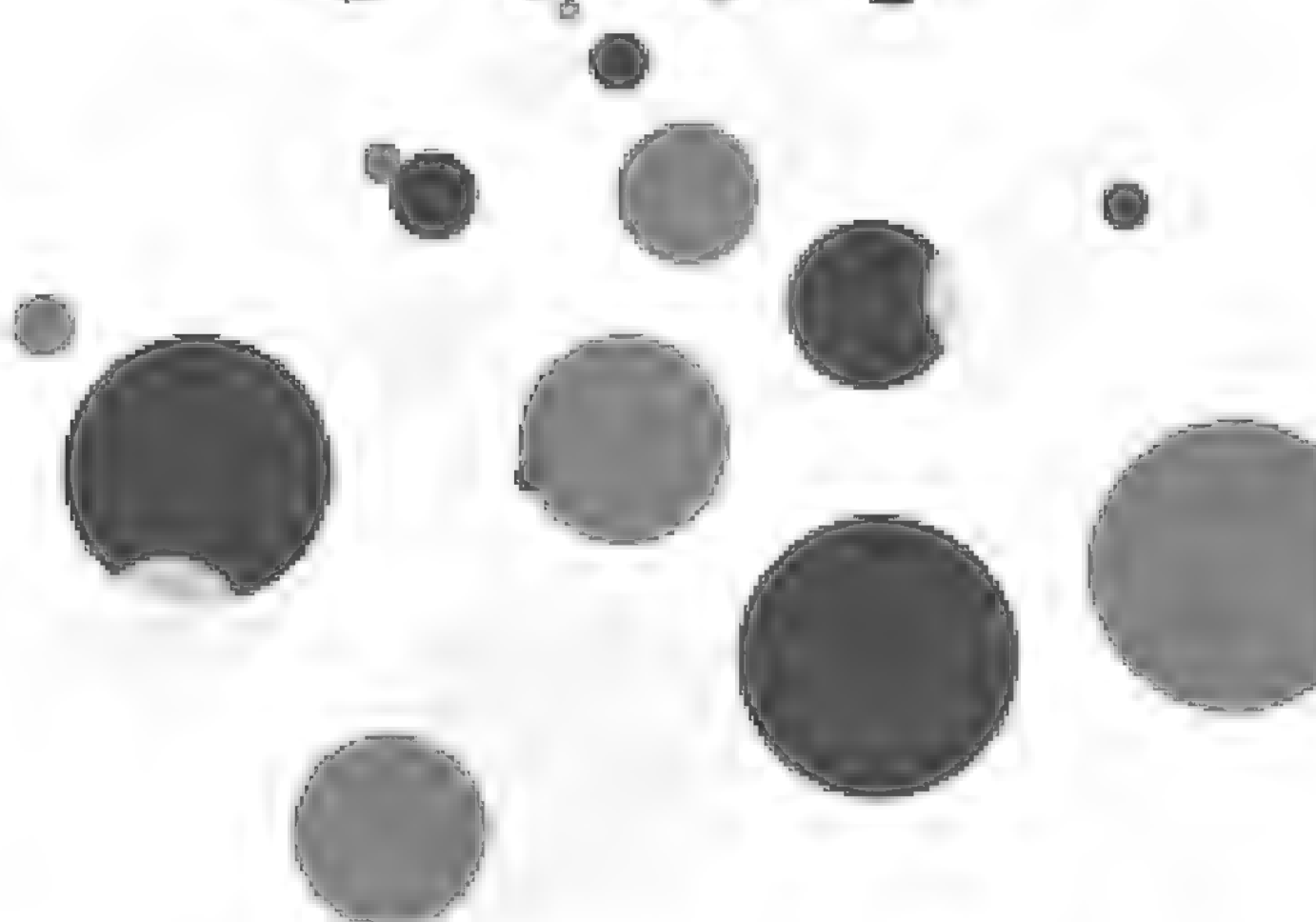
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with

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Humanities 2-22

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Nomination Deadline Feb 17

TheGatewayOnline
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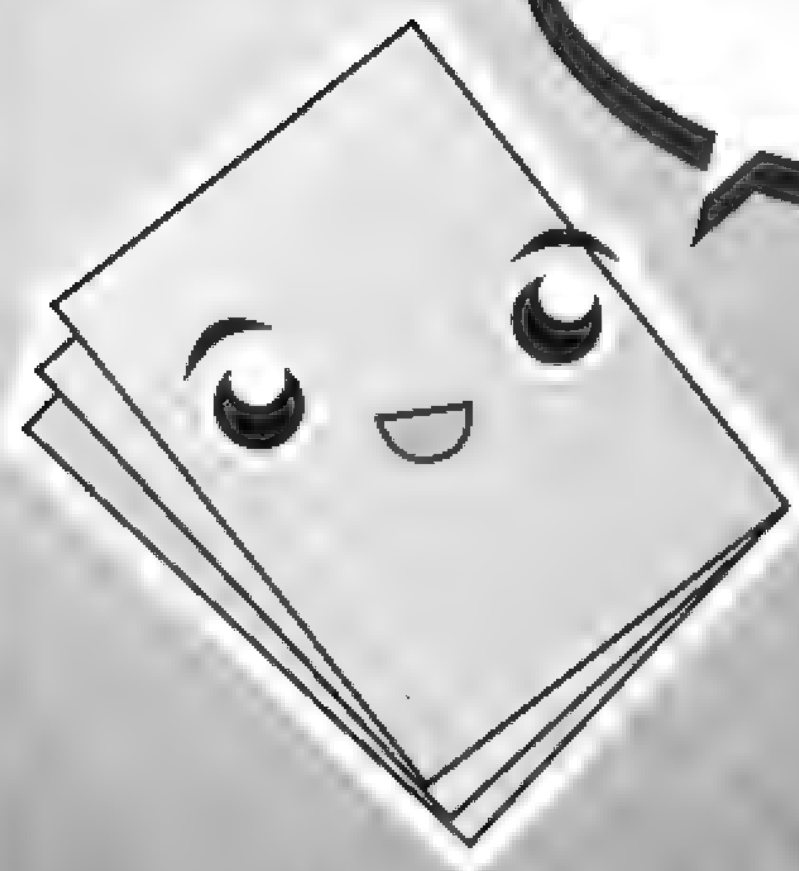
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Basketball star Clarke born to play

Rebecca Medel
 SPORTS EDITOR

An amazing start to varsity basketball in the 2008-2009 season had Nicole Clarke named Canada West's rookie of the year. The Pandas guard ended that year averaging more than 10 points per game and was number seven in CanWest for steals.

But with an injury in her second season — a fractured bone in her foot — Clarke ended up in a cast and on the sidelines for the rest of 2009-2010, which was a challenging experience, but she was able to see some positives in it.

"This is my sixth really major injury so you kind of get used to the frustration and learn to deal with it and manage it. There's positives to every injury. You learn so much more as a player when you're sitting on the sidelines and talk with coaches and get their point of view. So it's not all negative when you get injured."

Clarke recovered enough to start playing for the 2010-11 season, but before long she injured her foot again, this time needing surgery to repair it. Now, in the 2011-12 season, Clarke is back with a vengeance and says she's completely healthy. In fact, she's sitting in the number two spot in CanWest for scoring and averaging 17.1 points per game.

For someone who grew up with the game of basketball — she started playing when she was seven — learning to deal with the highs and lows of competitive sports was crucial, but Clarke adds that she had a really good teacher to help her in that.

"My dad's been my coach forever so he's always kind of been by my side in everything. So for every injury he's always like, 'You know, you can choose to be negative and feel sorry for yourself or you can pick yourself up and move forward. When you think of it in the grand scheme of things, six months is



MATT HIR.

only a little hiccup in the road out of a career which could be 20, 25 years."

And with one year left of eligibility in CanWest, Clarke is seriously considering sending in game tapes and seeing if she gets picked up in professional basketball when her time at the U of A is done. Because Canada doesn't have a women's league, it would mean travelling south to the WNBA or overseas to Australia or Europe. And if she could escape the snow for a little bit, Europe is where Clarke would jump on a plane to in a heartbeat.

"I really want to go to Greece. It's my number one. Greece or Italy. Anywhere in Europe really I want to go," she says.

But for now, the biological sciences major is focusing on the two pillars in her life: basketball and school.

"When you're a competitive athlete your time is so consumed with basketball you don't really have much time to do many other things," she says. "Right now I'm liking school a lot. I'm wanting to go into medicine. So if I wasn't playing basketball I'd probably be

finishing my degree this year instead of taking another year next year to finish it."

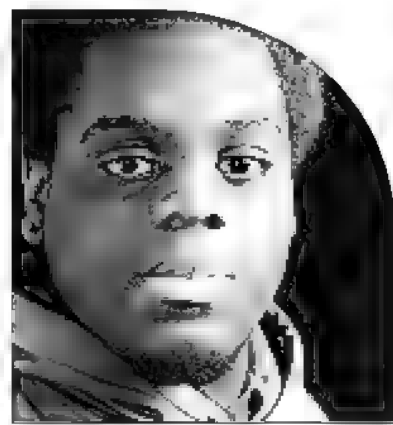
With only six regular season games left before playoffs, Clarke has been sizing up the competition the Pandas will face on the road to winning a championship, but says she welcomes the challenge.

"We have a really big game coming up against (University of Regina) and they have two really good guards on that team and so they are probably the biggest challenge. We've also played UBC, who has a good guard, Kristjana Young. She's a really good player. So it's nice to go up against other good players because it's more of a challenge and I'm really competitive."

The Pandas are ranked third in CanWest right now and have secured a spot in playoffs. Clarke has to rest her foot often, though, to make sure she doesn't injure it again — something that would be quite a loss for her team.

"I'm usually out for one practice every week and I can't shoot every day, so it's hard. You have to learn to manage it. If I go too hard I could fracture it again so I have to be careful."

Sarah Burke's legacy not just for skiers



Atta Almasi
 SPORTS COMMENTARY

It's February 2014 and the western Caucasus mountain range, towering above the Black Sea, is about to play host to an extraordinary extravaganza. The snow that covers the slopes — crisp, cold and white — is still and silent, much like the crowd of 8,000 gathered there to witness history in the making. And in just a few moments a spectacle that was inconceivable only a few years ago is about to actually take place — freestyle skiing in the Olympic Games.

But the person who was pivotal in bringing this sport to the Olympics, Canadian freestyle skier Sarah Burke, won't be there. On Jan. 10, 2012, while doing a training run for a sponsor in Park City, Utah, Burke was seriously injured and went into cardiac arrest. She was airlifted to the University of Utah Hospital in nearby Salt Lake City and was induced into a coma, later undergoing surgery to repair a tear in a vertebral artery. A little more than one week later, on Jan. 19, Burke succumbed to her injuries and passed away, leaving behind her husband of just 16 months, freestyle skier Rory Bushfield.

Trailblazer, pioneer and ground-breaker are all good synonyms to

describe an innovator. And they are all descriptions that, at one time or another, have been given to illustrate Burke's influence not only on her sport of freestyle skiing, but on women's sport and sport as a whole.

Introduced to skiing at age seven, Burke quickly ascended from the rank of novice to expert in a short time. She was so good in fact that she competed in and won boys' and men's events because many freestyle skiing events were not available for women. This led her on a quest as an advocate for women's freestyle skiing.

She continued to rack up gold medals after her first one, and the first for freestyle skiing in Finland back in 2005 at the FIS (International Ski Federation) Freestyle World Ski Championships in Kuusamo. She stood atop the podium four times in five years in the Superpipe event at the annual X Games on the famed slopes of Aspen, Colorado. Burke was also part of a group of female freestyle skiers lobbying IOC (International Olympic Committee) members for the inclusion of their sport in the pinnacle of winter athletics, the winter Olympic Games.

Initially a low-profile sport, mostly followed only by extreme winter sports fans and analysts, the success of the X Games over the past decade helped elevate the profile of extreme winter sports so much that the 2010 Olympics saw the introduction of the

sport of ski cross, but not freestyle skiing.

After failing to get the sport of women's superpipe skiing into the 2010 Olympics and losing the possibility of winning gold on her home soil in Vancouver, hard work paid off for Burke when the IOC approved the inclusion of freestyle skiing in the upcoming 2014 Winter Olympic Games in Sochi, Russia.

With her dream finally becoming a reality, I'm sure Burke must have headed into her preparation for the 2012 X Games in Colorado buoyed by the fact that winning another gold at the event wasn't "it" anymore and that a newer and bigger Olympic prize could be hers. Burke was the sport's best athlete and the overwhelming favourite to be the first to win gold in this event at the Olympics.

The legacy Burke leaves behind is a great one and will probably manifest itself most profoundly two years from now at the Freestyle Skiing and Snowboard Park in Sochi when the women's superpose skiing event occurs for the first time.

Although devastating, it is a small comfort knowing that she died doing what she loved best. As she said in *Winter*, a feature film produced by The Ski Channel, "It's what our lives are. Being on the hill, there's a reason for that. It's amazing. It's where we met, where we play, where we live and hopefully where we die."

Here's to a true Canadian idol. Goodbye Sarah, you will be missed.

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Executive Report Card

We've hit the halfway point of the school year and *The Gateway* makes an assessment of what the Students' Union executives have been doing to date.

Graders: Justin Bell, Ryan Bromsgrove
Class photos: Matt Hirji, Justin Bell

Rory Tighe - President

B+



Rory Tighe's presidency so far has been steady, but lacking in the fiery achievement department. He's moved forward with the Fall Reading Week initiative started by his predecessor and has done a good job of guiding the four other executives, but he hasn't brought anything spectacular to the portfolio.

One of his main election points was improving Students' Union communications and getting the word about the SU out to more students on campus. On that note, he's been exploring ways of increasing awareness of elections and has been working on the rebranding of InfoLink, but Tighe himself admits that communication to students outside of

the SUB bubble is lacking.

However, Tighe's been making some promising progress in recent weeks. He's advocated against the installment fee at the university's Board of Governors and is proposing that mandatory non-instructional fees must pass a student referendum in order to be increased or new ones brought in. While the chance that he'll win at the board level is slim, Tighe's starting to show that he's got some fight in him. That, combined with his recent role as a spokesperson for the SU in the wake of the continuing decline of the university's financial security, might be enough to bump that B+ higher by the end of his term.

Andy Cheema - VP (Operations & Finance)

A



Vice-President (Operations & Finance) Andy Cheema has kept his focus on two major issues. One is the redesign of the lower level of SUB, and the other is the revamping food and beverage options on campus.

Lower level SUB as it is now consists of hidden-away services and student group offices that most people don't know exist. The proposed redesign features an impressive opening-up of the floor, allowing for more space for students, with a healthy dose of natural light. The SU is looking into funding this with a fee of \$9 per semester. While it's not yet clear whether this will go to referendum, the redesign itself looks to be a very smart use of space.

As far as updating the food options goes, students visiting RATT have been able to enjoy the first phase. The SU hired a chef over the summer, and with his help, the RATT menu has gone from providing tolerable food to an updated offering with fresher ingredients. The SU doesn't currently have sufficient data to say whether this has driven up business, but we're

satisfied with the changes.

Once he's finished at RATT, the chef will be moving on to Dewey's, L'Express and the catering service. There's work still to be done, but this is one election promise that began to show fruit this school year, with many students by now having sampled the tasty upgrade. Though it may seem slow, the changes so far indicate that it's being done right.

Accompanying the new menus, the SU is also working on breaking down the nutritional information of its food products, and starting over the summer will be rolling out labelling, allowing students better control over what they eat — sure to be good news for those with specific dietary restrictions.

Cheema didn't throw out promises willy-nilly when he ran, which has allowed him to focus his efforts on a few specific initiatives. As a result, he's produced excellent progress with already-tangible benefits to students.

Emerson Csorba - VP (Academic)

B+



For VP (Academic) Emerson Csorba, his focus for much of the year had been on the Undergraduate Research Symposium. He deserves a lot of credit for making it happen, as it was something that was only talked about by his predecessors. While only 150 of the total 30,000 undergrads on campus were involved, it was an excellent opportunity for them. One of the side effects of holding a high-profile event like the symposium makes it easier to bring more attention — and donations — to undergraduate research, which gives students considering graduate studies a decisive advantage.

This semester, Csorba is organizing a Canadian Roundtable on Academic Materials (CRAM) conference at the U of A, that will bring together all sides in the textbook market. This is something that's been missing in recent years and while the results remain to be seen, it's a welcome return.

On the topic of academic materials, it would have been nice to have seen more work done around digital downloads of textbooks. The internet has given students the possibility of eschewing the 1,000-page bulky hardback and the raw materials costs associated with them. But Csorba came up against the wall of companies deciding to offer things such as time-based downloads as opposed to allowing students to own the book for life — or until they resell — and hasn't gone much further than that.

Undergraduate research initiatives are great for students who plan to go on to grad school, but keeping the costs of textbooks realistic no matter what their method of distribution is an issue that affects all students. The change of focus to CRAM shows that Csorba is willing to tackle the issue, but the lack of progress of digital downloads and other textbook alternatives is disappointing.

Farid Iskandar - VP (External)**A-**

As VP (External), Farid Iskandar's major task is external advocacy, and he's been involved with efforts by both the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations and the Council of Alberta University Students. Regulation of mandatory non-instructional fees has been a major issue since the introduction of the CoSSS fee, and on that note, Iskandar has focused his efforts on moving that forward at the provincial level.

Through CAUS, he lobbied two of the Progressive Conservative contenders for the premiership — including Alison Redford — the now provincial Liberal leader Raj Sherman, Alberta Party leader Glen Taylor and NDP MLA Rachel Notley. Thus far, the government has been resistant to committing to any real reform, but Iskandar continues to monitor the issue, ensuring the student voice does not go unheard. Moving forward, to increase awareness and support for regulation, Iskandar's been working on changing the angle of attack to make the issue, in simple terms, less boring.

Action against textbook price premiums was another promise in his campaign. These regulations allow Canadian publishers to charge up to a 15 per

cent premium on foreign titles. Lobbying through CASA on this issue has been met with bipartisan support — though it's unclear when this support will turn into action.

For many students who reside outside of Edmonton, voting in the provincial election comes with a degree of difficulty. To combat this, Iskandar's lobbied through CAUS to get on-campus polling booths. The ultimate decision for polling stations for multiple constituencies rests with the legislature, which would require opening up the Elections Act. But he has secured the promise of advance polling stations for Edmonton-Riverview's subconstituency for the next provincial election, which is a good alternative solution.

Faced with uncertainty over the next provincial election — and thus the next major opportunity to get post-secondary issues in the public eye, Iskandar's done a great job lobbying for change on behalf of students. Regulation of MNIFs, copyright reform in favour of more effective and cheaper education and removal of textbook price premiums may have been done with varying degrees of success. But given that interests more powerful than CASA and CAUS oppose them, Iskandar's continued to fight on.

**Colten Yamagishi - VP (Student Life)****B**

Colten Yamagishi is a familiar face to those who attend SU events, overseeing much of the programming. And while the programming has been strong this year, with better attendance all-around, there hasn't been anything outstanding. Week of Welcome was far stronger than last year's event, AntiFreeze happened, the now-apparently-annual Break the Record dodgeball attempt is coming up and there have been a lot of movie nights. But while all these events have been, or certainly will be, successful, there's nothing uniquely-Yamagishi to look at.

Two of his campaign promises for new things were a thrift store and a campus musical. The thrift store idea turned into the free store that, along with help from APIRG, graced SUB late last semester, but only for the span of a week, meaning that it lacked permanence that we envisioned when Yamagishi introduced the idea. The campus musical idea has, after much discussion, turned into a talent show scheduled for March — though the event is not yet finalized. While it's great that rather than abandon these things completely they were turned into something else, the truth remains that he ran on the original

ideas and didn't deliver. As the winner of the only contested race last year, this carries a little extra disappointment, as his platform was the one explicitly chosen by students.

But he has followed through on another promise. Yamagishi's campaign posters pledged to defend the student voice when it came to high-risk drinking. He's been that voice on a number of campus committees, and rightly called out attempts to misrepresent the increase in alcohol-related vandalism at the Residence St-Jean as typical when the general trend is down. He further took issue with the recommendations in the Coalition Against High-Risk Drinking report that drinking be curbed, insisting instead on providing services to deal with students who do drink too much, noting that whatever anyone tries, drinking in some form will still happen.

By no means has Yamagishi done a bad job, but so far, there's nothing huge for him to really own. He's been a competent leader, put on some good events and has represented the student voice well. But a collection of delayed and altered promises prevent him reaching an A.

**Raphael LePage Fortin - Board of Governors Representative****B-**

Raphael LePage Fortin ran on a platform of increasing communication to students about what happens on the Board of Governors. He promised tweets and vlogs about board business, but quickly found that the board didn't like this idea. There is one spokesperson for the board, they argued, and so for anyone else to disseminate information would be confusing. LePage Fortin should have fought harder for permission to report to his constituents — especially considering that the BoG rep already made material public in reports to council. How hard is it to find the public board minutes? If he continued to find resistance, he should have done it anyway.

But with his platform denied and forgotten, he hasn't sat around doing nothing. Since March, LePage Fortin has taken it upon himself to assemble a hefty binder full of information on the committees he's been on, the work he's done, the others on the board, useful reference material and more, in order to make the transition for next year's representative smoother — something that's not been in place

in previous years. That's a great step to ensuring the next BoG representative can dive right in and know what's going on without having to spend too much work on doing catch-up.

He's also been working with Tighe on a motion to bring new mandatory non-instructional fees to student referendum. While a board intent upon charging a new fee could overturn the requirement to listen to a referendum, the motion represents the best the SU can do at the university level, and if passed, would be a useful tool. The extent to which LePage Fortin and Tighe have influenced other members of the board to vote with them will be unclear until the vote in February, but it's welcome work nonetheless.

LePage Fortin failed to deliver on his platform, and should have fought harder against the board to get information to students. But he has made up for it somewhat with his actual work on the board, and taking the initiative to make the next year's transition easier.



Diversions

Design & Production Editor
Ross Vincent
Phone
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Email
production@gateway.ualberta.ca
Volunteer
Comics meetings Tuesdays at 3:30 p.m. in 3-04 SUB. C'mon by!

COMICS

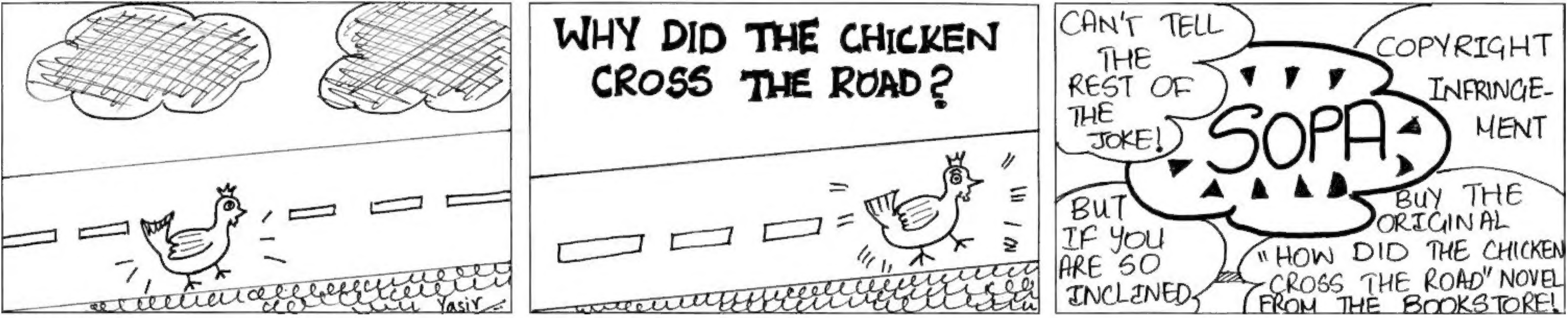
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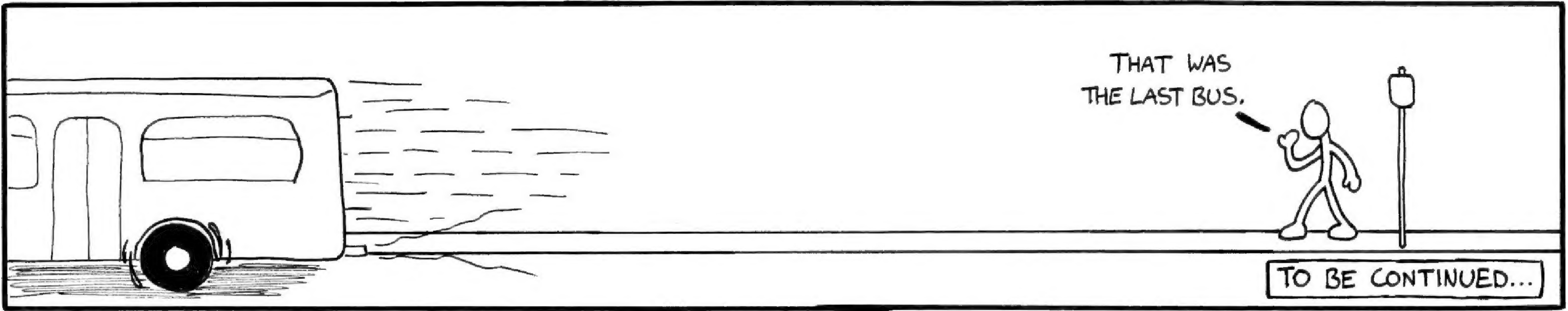
LISTER DAZE by Gateway Staff



AWKWARD ENCOUNTERS by Yasir Ali



SERIOUS COMICS by Avery Bignob



TALES FROM WALES by Ryan Bromsgrove



crossword

Puzzle provided by BestCrosswords.com
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Across

- 1. Conscription org.
- 4. Tree of the birch family
- 9. Antlered animal
- 14. "The Bells" poet
- 15. Mismatch
- 16. Big name at Indy
- 17. Egyptian cobra
- 18. Alamogordo's county
- 19. "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest" author
- 20. Dilapidated
- 23. St. crossers
- 24. Sky light
- 25. Lets up
- 28. Hit on the head
- 30. Buddy
- 33. Large drinking bowl
- 34. Describes a gently cooked steak
- 35. "East of Eden" brother
- 36. High-speed separator
- 39. Gets the picture
- 40. Wall St. debuts
- 41. More cunning
- 42. Computer key
- 43. 1982 Disney film
- 44. Biases
- 45. Fine hair
- 46. Jack of "Rio Lobo"
- 47. Development of a cancer

- 54. Income source
- 55. Blew it
- 56. Altar in the sky
- 57. Hives
- 58. Actor Christopher
- 59. Baseball club
- 60. Hickory-nut
- 61. Blender brand
- 62. Extra-wide shoe size

Down

- 1. Disagreement
- 2. Cubs slugger Sammy
- 3. Equinox mo.
- 4. Skin emollient
- 5. Petrol units
- 6. Exploits
- 7. French 101 verb
- 8. Board's partner
- 9. Eskimo boot
- 10. ____ a million
- 11. ____ buco (veal dish)
- 12. In the public eye
- 13. Trick ending?
- 21. Spuds
- 22. "Lou Grant" star
- 25. Divert
- 26. Bundles
- 27. Early Mexican
- 28. Ecclesiastical rule
- 29. Scraps
- 30. Boston hockey player
- 31. Man of many words

1	2	3		4	5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12	13
14				15						16				
17				18						19				
20			21						22					
			23					24						
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33						34				35				
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42				43					44					
			45					46						
	47	48					49	50				51	52	53
54							55					56		
57							58					59		
60							61					62		

- 32. Lulus
- 34. Bank takeback
- 35. Blazing
- 37. Wispy clouds
- 38. Inhabitant of Oahu, Mindanao, or Java
- 43. City in S Arizona
- 44. Arm cover
- 45. "Band of Gold" singer Payne
- 46. "Snowy" bird
- 47. Attention
- 48. A Baldwin brother
- 49. Adopted son of Claudius
- 50. Metal containers
- 51. Kemo ____
- 52. Dies ____
- 53. Fill completely
- 54. Dine

CLASSIFIEDS

To place a classified ad, please go to www.gatewayclassifieds.ca

SPORTS

The Clansmen, your downtown Rugby Club, welcomes new members on a year-round basis. Both Men and Women. No previous Rugby experience required. Contact 476-0268 or check www.clanrugby.com. Get involved in Rugby, a game for life!

FOR RENT

Garneau Mews 83rd Ave and 112St Heated underground parking stall \$100/month. Leo 780-299-0396.

WANTED

Looking for students who want to be paid to receive text messages. Watch video at <http://join.cash-texts.biz> for details. Questions? info@cashtexts.biz.

EMPLOYMENT
PART TIME

We are looking for an energetic, highly motivated and extremely well-organized individual to work between 8-20 hours/week. This individual will work as part of a busy team. This individual should be comfortable in the lab as well as in an office setting. Please send your cover letter and resume to: key@kestonelabs.ca.

EMPLOYMENT
TEMPORARY

Are you a student in the agricultural field but don't have a field to apply what you are learning? e-mail for information about what we are offering on our farm. saturnaherbs@breezybay.ca.

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

Volunteer to teach ESL to adult newcomers at CCI-LEX, downtown. Classroom teaching, 2-3h/wk. Teaching materials provided. Gain teaching experience and meet people from around the world. Contact Diana at lexprogram@cci-lex.ca.

4 THINGS THAT PEOPLE
LIKE A LOT BUT I DON'T
KNOW WHY

- 1. The Tragically Hip
- 2. *Catcher in the Rye*
- 3. *The Big Bang Theory* (the show, not the theory)
- 4. Marshall McLuhan

sudoku

				8		4	3	7
					4			2
7					3	1		
		9	3	6			1	
	8			5	2	7		
		3	7					8
1			2					
9	2	6		3				

THE ADVENTURES OF RORY TIGHE by Gateway Staff





a place of mind

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\$5 Public Wings

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\$4 House Pints
\$5 Domestic Pints
\$6 Import & Premium Pints

THURSDAY WINE NIGHT

\$4 Wine

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